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NEW TEAM
Lalduhoma sworn in as Mizoram CM
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Mahua expelled from LS, Opposition MPs walk out

Trinamool Congress leader calls process 'hanging by a kangaroo court'; party deputes her to speak in House but Centre denies permission, citing similar episode during UPA regime in 2005

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Crying foul: Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra speaks to the media after her expulsion over cash-for-query allegations. PTI

Amid an Opposition walkout, Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra was expelled from the Lok Sabha on Friday over cash-for-query allegations.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved a resolution which said her continuance as an MP was "untenable" and her conduct "unbecoming of an MP". She has been accused of taking bribes from Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani in return for asking questions in Parliament.

Ms. Moitra was not allowed to speak in the House even though Trinamool leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay nominated her as the main speaker. Citing a 2005 precedent under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime in a similar expulsion process, Mr. Joshi argued against allowing her to speak.

Ms. Moitra later termed the Ethics Committee's recommendation of expulsion "hanging by a kangaroo court". The committee had held Ms. Moitra guilty of "unethical conduct" for sharing her user ID and password of the Lok Sabha portal with unauthorised persons.

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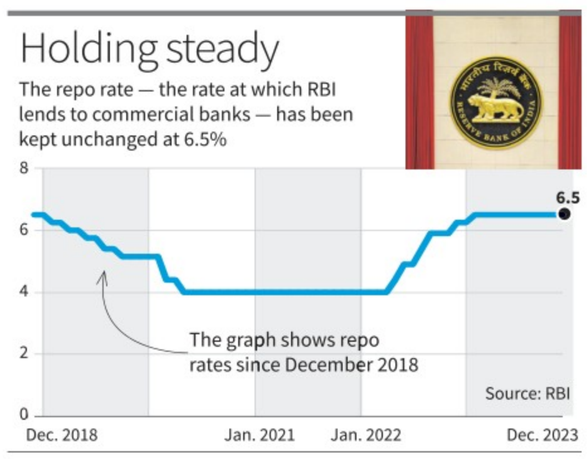
RBI keeps repo rate at 6.5%, raises GDP growth forecast

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI



The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday unanimously decided to keep key interest rates unchanged, raised its GDP growth projection for 2023-24 to 7% from 6.5%, and retained its average inflation forecast at 5.4%, while warning that inflation could spike through November and December.

"We have made significant progress in bringing inflation below 5% despite intermittent blips... The target of 4% inflation is yet to be reached and we have to stay the course. Headline inflation remains volatile due to supply shocks," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

There was no immediate relief for borrowers as the key repo rate remained unchanged at 6.5%.

While food inflation has moderated from the double-digit levels of July to 6.2% in October, the Governor said the inflation outlook would be considerably influenced by uncertain food prices.

Food inflation

"While monetary policy may look through one-off shocks, it has to keep an eye on ensuring food inflation spikes don't become generalised," the RBI Governor said.

Five of the six MPC members voted to persist with a policy stance focus on "withdrawal of accommodation", but there was no indication of when interest rates – the key repo rate has been paused over five successive reviews after being raised by 250 basis points to 6.5% – may be trimmed. One basis point is equal to 0.01 percentage point.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Govt. to consider proposal on cloud seeding

BELAGAVI
The Karnataka government will consider a proposal to carry out cloud seeding in the wake of forecast of cloudy weather conditions over the next three to four days. » PAGE 8

Gauri murder: HC grants bail to Mohan Nayak

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka has granted bail to Mohan Nayak N., who is arraigned as accused number 11 in the murder of editor-activist Gauri Lankesh, on the grounds that the trial has been delayed for no fault of his. » PAGE 5

FOCUS ON
MYSORE ROAD REALTY
- A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE
» 4 PAGES

SC rejects plea for probe against EPS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to intervene in an appeal filed by the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) against a Madras High Court decision to rule out a fresh inquiry against former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in connection with an alleged State Highway tender scam. A Bench headed by Justice Bela M. Trivedi termed the HC order "absolutely perfect".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

BJP to pick CMs of 3 States over weekend

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP took a step forward to select the Chief Ministers for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh where it recently won Assembly elections, by appointing central observers to elect the leaders of the respective legislature parties. Sources in the BJP said the legislature party meetings will take place over the weekend. The swearing-in ceremonies of the CMs will be held by December 11.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Veteran actor Leelavathi passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leelavathi, after a stint in theatre, made her film debut in 'Bhakta Prahlada' in 1958.

Veteran Kannada actor Leelavathi passed away at a private hospital at Nelamangala, near Bengaluru, on Friday after a prolonged illness. She was 86.

She was admitted to the hospital following respiratory complications. She is survived by her son, Vinod Raj, who is also an actor.

Having acted in over 600 films, Leelavathi was also a part of several noted Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu projects.

Following her stint in theatre, Leelavathi made her film debut in *Bhakta Prahlada* (1958). Her debut as a heroine in Kannada was *Mangalya Yoga* (1958).

Noteworthy role

Ranadheera Kanteerava, a historical with Dr. Rajkumar in the lead role, was Leelavathi's first noteworthy performance. She then forged a great on-screen chemistry with the Kannada thespian, acting in blockbusters such as *Gaali Gopura, Kulavadhu, Veera Kesari, Bhagya Devathe* and so on with him.

Leelavathi entered the film industry in the early 1960s, and was a sought-after actor till the late 1980s. She featured in around 400 Kannada films. The versatile actor featured in varied genres such as family drama, historical, social drama and more.

Leelavathi was a recipient of Dr. Rajkumar Lifetime Achievement Award (in 2000). Several actors from across the film industry of South India, besides political leaders condoled the passing away of Leelavathi.

The final rites will be conducted on Saturday.

A STAR OF THE SIXTIES » PAGE 8

Payload onboard Aditya-L1 spacecraft captures full-disk images of the Sun

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday announced that the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) instrument on board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft has successfully captured the first full-disk images of the Sun.

ISRO in an update said that SUIT has captured the images in 200-400 nm wavelength range.

"SUIT captures images of the Sun's photosphere and chromosphere in this wavelength range using various scientific filters," ISRO said. On November 20, 2023, the SUIT payload was powered on.

"Following a successful pre-commissioning phase, the telescope captured its first light science images on December 6. These unprecedented images, taken using eleven different filters (as shown in Table 1), include the first-ever full-disk representations of the Sun in wavelengths ranging from 200 to 400 nm, excluding Ca II h. The full disk images of the Sun in the Ca II h wavelength have been studied from other observatories," ISRO said.

ISRO said that among the notable features revealed are sunspots, plage, and quiet Sun regions, as marked in the Mg II h image, providing scientists with pioneering insights into the intricate details of the Sun's photosphere and chromosphere. It added that the SUIT observations will help scientists study the dynamic coupling of the magnetized solar atmosphere and assist them in placing tight constraints on the effects of solar radiation on Earth's climate.

Aditya-L1 India's first space based observatory to study the Sun, was launched on September 2 and is dedicated to the comprehensive study of the Sun. It has 7 distinct payloads developed, all developed indigenously. Five by ISRO and two by Indian academic institutes in collaboration with ISRO.

The development of SUIT involved a collaborative effort under the leadership of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Tiger hopes to find his roar again, one meticulous step at a time

> With the way my ankle is right now, I was excited to get through each and every day and to start piecing rounds together. It was fun to feel that again

The 15-time Major winner returned to action at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas after an eight-month layoff. Though rusty, the 47-year-old is now playing pain-free, is full of competitive zeal and believes there are more titles in him

Ashwin Achal

There were no scintillating low scores over the four rounds. There were no long putts or rationale-defying recovery shots which went viral on social media. In fact, he was never even in contention for a top-five finish, let alone winning the tournament.

But all things considered, Tiger Woods ticked the right boxes at the Hero World Challenge in Nassau, Bahamas. Playing his first tournament in nearly eight months after undergoing a subtalar fusion procedure in his ankle, Woods' primary aim was to last the full 72 holes. On this count, it was mission accomplished.

Woods walked the course with no noticeable limp or pain. Yes, there was soreness at the end of each round, but this is expected given his age and the toll that multiple injuries have taken on his body.

No frills

He did not take much time lining up his shots – an encouraging sign that the mind is functioning without clutter. Woods, who will turn 48 at the end of the month, showed that while he is not quite the world beater of his heyday, he is far from a spent force.

For the crowds at Albany golf course – albeit small in number – there was only one show in town. Woods had the strongest contingent of followers, while the likes of World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler and others had to be content with the company of a few family members and friends.

> I drove it on pretty much a string all week. Granted, these fairways are big. I had my ball speed up, which was nice

Woods (82 PGA Tour event titles) is tied with Sam Snead for most PGA Tour wins. With time, Woods will gain the belief that all it takes is one good week to lay his hands on yet another trophy. He can then bask in the glory as the lone man on the highest peak. Just one week of good golf. His par-288 overall score at Albany, which saw him finish 18th in a field of 20, can be viewed as the first step in that path.

Woods was happy to get back on the course and feel that competitive drive. "I was curious just like you guys (media) to see what this tournament is going to look like. With the way my ankle is right now, I was excited to get through each and every day and to start piecing rounds together. It was fun to feel that again," Woods said.

Sweet and sour

Woods took comfort from the fact that the excruciating ankle pain, which forced him to pull out of the Masters in April, was no longer a bother. "I don't have the bone pain that I did. But I still have to go through the same protocols of recovery, which takes a long time. That's the unfortunate thing about ageing.

"I've worn my body out while trying to keep up with the younger people. You spend more time in the treatment and weight rooms than you do on a golf course. That's just part of wanting to hang around as an athlete," Woods said.

There were moments at Albany which provided a glimpse of the marauding Woods of old. None better than the tee off in the first hole of the invitational event where Woods crushed a 326-yard drive onto the middle of the fairway. His playing partner Justin Thomas, on the other hand, hit it out of bounds and took a penalty drop.

"I drove it on pretty much a string all week. Granted, these fairways are big. I had my ball speed up, which was nice. And I was hitting the middle of the face the entire week. So it's not like I have to go and try and find something new over the next few weeks or in the next year. What I've been working on is right there," Woods said.

Work in progress

There is, of course, plenty of room for improvement. Woods admitted that his putting was not up to the mark. "I would say my short game could be better. But everybody here says the same thing – it's one of the most difficult golf courses. We have to chip the ball up with the holes running away from you.

"It's tough. We use the 3-wood, 4-iron, 5-wood, hybrid. We were also talking about using the pitching wedge instead of a 60 (60-degree wedge). These are all weird things that we don't normally see, right? It's normally just a lob wedge to hack it out, but this is a different golf course around the greens," Woods explained.

Heading into the New Year, Woods wants to play one tournament a month. This could be tough, but Woods is confident that his body is up to the task.

"Having a couple of weeks off to recover, and a week to build up – there's no reason why I can't get into that rhythm. It's just a matter of getting into better shape. My game is not that far off, but I need to get into better shape," Woods said.

Off the course, Woods has taken on a major new role. A few months ago, Woods joined the Tour Policy Board as the sixth player director. As a respected senior statesman, Woods will look to voice the concerns of players as the PGA Tour aims to merge with the Saudi Public Investment Fund, the DP World (European) Tour and the LIV Golf League.

Woods' involvement has come as a boon for his peers, with the likes of Thomas, Jordan Spieth, Adam Scott and others praising the 15-time Major winner for stepping up to the plate.

The Tour's merger announcement, which took place in June, caught most players by surprise. Woods was unhappy that players were not taken into confidence before the decision was made.

"I was surprised, and I'm sure a lot of the players were taken aback by what happened. It happened so quickly without any input or any information. We will take steps going forward to ensure that players are not going to be left out of the process again. This was part of the reason for putting me on the board," Woods said.

There is a deadline in place – December 31 – for working out all details of the merger. Woods will take the lead when it comes to ensuring that the players get a fair representation in the deal.

"All the parties are talking and we're aggressively working on trying to get a deal done. We are all trying to make sure that the process is better as well. We want to get the deal done, while making sure it's done the right way," Woods said.

(The writer was in Nassau on invitation from Hero MotoCorp)

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,245	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,855	18
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	7,600	22
4	Jannik Sinner	22	6,490	23
5	Andrey Rublev	26	4,805	25
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,235	24
7	Alexander Zverev	26	3,985	27
8	Holger Rune	20	3,660	23
9	Hubert Hurkacz	26	3,245	24
10	Taylor Fritz	26	3,100	26
11	Casper Ruud	24	2,825	24
12	Alex de Minaur	24	2,740	25
13	Tommy Paul	26	2,665	26
14	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,570	23
15	Karen Khachanov	27	2,520	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 138 ▲ 2 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 511 ▼ 3 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,295	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	9,050	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,580	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,365	18
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,975	20
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,195	21
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,075	17
8	Karolina Muchova	27	3,651	16
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,620	24
10	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,880	21
11	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,855	23
12	Madison Keys	28	2,816	18
13	Jelena Ostapenko	26	2,720	23
14	Petra Kvitova	33	2,660	17
15	Qinwen Zheng	21	2,660	23

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 206 ▼ 3 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 323 ▼ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	15	11	3	1	33	14	19	36
2	Liverpool	15	10	4	1	34	14	20	34
3	Aston Villa	15	10	2	3	34	20	14	32
4	Man. City	15	9	3	3	36	17	19	30
5	Tottenham	15	8	3	4	29	22	7	27
6	Man. United	15	9	0	6	18	18	0	27
7	Newcastle	15	8	2	5	32	17	15	26
8	Brighton	15	7	4	4	32	27	5	25
9	West Ham	15	7	3	5	26	25	1	24
10	Chelsea	15	5	4	6	26	24	2	19
11	Brentford	15	5	4	6	23	21	2	19
12	Fulham	15	5	3	7	21	26	-5	18
13	Wolves	15	5	3	7	20	25	-5	18
14	Crystal Palace	15	4	4	7	14	21	-7	16
15	Bournemouth	15	4	4	7	18	30	-12	16
16	Nottingham	15	3	4	8	16	27	-11	13
17	Everton	15	6	2	7	18	20	-2	10
18	Luton Town	15	2	3	10	16	30	-14	9
19	Burnley	15	2	1	12	15	33	-18	7
20	Sheffield	15	1	2	12	11	41	-30	5

Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. The decision is currently under appeal

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	15	12	2	1	33	9	24	38
2	Girona	15	12	2	1	34	18	16	38
3	Barcelona	15	10	4	1	28	14	14	34
4	Atletico Madrid	14	10	1	3	30	13	17	31
5	Athletic Bilbao	15	8	4	3	30	18	12	28
6	Real Sociedad	15	7	5	3	26	18	8	26
7	Real Betis	15	6	7	2	18	16	2	25
8	Las Palmas	15	6	3	6	13	13	0	21
9	Valencia	15	5	4	6	17	20	-3	19
10	Getafe	15	4	7	4	17	20	-3	19
11	Rayo Vallecano	15	4	7	4	16	22	-6	19
12	Villarreal	15	4	4	7	22	26	-4	16
13	Alaves	15	4	4	7	14	19	-5	16
14	Osasuna	15	4	3	8	17	25	-8	15
15	Sevilla	14	2	7	5	20	20	0	13
16	Cadiz	15	2	6	7	12	22	-10	12
17	Real Mallorca	15	1	8	6	13	20	-7	11
18	Celta Vigo	15	1	6	8	15	25	-10	9
19	Granada	15	1	4	10	19	35	-16	7
20	Almeria	15	0	4	11	16	37	-21	4

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	105,655	16
2	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	86,031	20
3	Kodai Naraoka	85,315	23
4	Jonatan Christie	82,111	18
5	Li Shi Feng	81,948	22
6	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	79,778	18
7	Shi Yu Qi	77,674	21
8	H. S. Prannoy	76,037	21
9	Loh Kean Yew	71,062	23
10	Lee Zii Jia	68,226	24
11	Anders Antonsen	67,330	21
12	Kenta Nishimoto	67,217	27
13	Kanta Tsuneyama	63,821	23
14	Chou Tien Chen	63,537	29
15	Ng Tze Yong	59,840	24

Top Indians ▶

Prannoy H. S.
Rank 8

Lakshya Sen
Rank 17

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	113,314	18
2	Chen Yu Fei	101,646	18
3	Akane Yamaguchi	100,717	16
4	Tai Tzu Ying	90,136	19
5	Carolina Marin	80,870	18
6	He Bing Jiao	77,374	19
7	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	71,771	23
8	Han Yue	70,458	23
9	Beiwen Zhang	65,990	25
10	Wang Zhi Yi	65,050	20
11	Ratchanok Intanon	63,093	16
12	P.V. Sindhu	62,640	22
13	Kim Ga Eun	58,896	27
14	Pornpawee Chochuwong	57,349	23
15	Aya Ohori	56,510	24

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 12

Aakarshi Kashyap
Rank 38

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	883	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	842	947
4	Babar Azam	829	882
5	Marnus Labuschagne	826	937
6	Travis Head	818	884
7	Daryl Mitchell	804	804
8	Usman Khawaja	796	847
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	879	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
3	Ravindra Jadeja	782	899
4	Pat Cummins	775	914
5	Shaheen Afridi	762	836
5	Ollie Robinson	762	820
7	James Anderson	761	903
8	Nathan Lyon	760	799
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	781
10	Mitchell Starc	742	806

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	826	847
2	Babar Azam	824	898
3	Virat Kohli	791	911
4	Rohit Sharma	769	885
5	Daryl Mitchell	750	750
6	David Warner	745	880
7	Rassie van der Dussen	735	796
8	Harry Tector	729	729
9	Dawid Malan	722	730
10	Heinrich Klaasen	721	756

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	741	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	703	733
3	Mohammed Siraj	699	736
4	Jasprit Bumrah	685	841
5	Adam Zampa	675	695
6	Rashid Khan	667	806
6	Kuldeep Yadav	667	765
8	Trent Boult	663	775
9	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
10	Mohammad Shami	648	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	855	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	787	875
3	Aiden Markram	756	796
4	Babar Azam	734	896
5	Rilee Rossouw	702	724
6	Dawid Malan	691	915
7	Ruturaj Gaikwad	688	700
8	Jos Buttler	666	674
9	Reeza Hendricks	657	661
10	Glenn Phillips	649	703

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Ravi Bishnoi	699	699
2	Rashid Khan	692	816
3	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	797
3	Adil Rashid	679	746
5	Maheesh Theekshana	677	684
6	Sam Curran	659	688
7	Fazalhaq Farooqi	657	692
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	656	745
9	Akeal Hosein	655	681
10	Anrich Nortje	647	695

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Founder and Director

Dr. Minal Chandra
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Hyderabad

DR. Chetana Chetan
Clinical Head
Epione Chennai

Dr. Vidya Bandaru
Clinical Head
Epione Bangalore

PLASMA THERAPY IN KNEE PAIN - THAT'S ALL YOUR KNEE JOINT REQUIRES

PROTECT YOUR KNEE JOINT AND TREAT YOUR KNEE PAIN WITH YOUR OWN PLASMA - A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FDA APPROVED NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT.

Knee osteoarthritis is a degenerative condition, where the cartilage present in the knee joint undergoes degeneration and gets torn. The patient initially has pain and stiffness in the knee joint and progressively faces other symptoms like redness, swelling and increase in pain depending on the grade of Osteoarthritis.

Who are prone to develop Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative condition which all individuals have to go through but symptoms vary from person to person. Individuals who are obese, athletes and those with previous knee injuries are susceptible to early osteoarthritis and females are more prone as compared to males.

How can one avoid aggravating knee pain?

Avoiding prolonged sitting and standing, avoid climbing stairs, avoid squatting and sitting on the floor can prevent exacerbation of pre-existing knee pain. Routine walking, regular exercises to strengthen the thigh muscles, weight reduction, and proper sitting habits can immensely help prevent acute knee pain.

What is the cartilage and what is its role in knee pain and knee Osteoarthritis?

Cartilages are soft tissues present in the knee joint between two bones - the thigh bone femur and the leg bone Tibia. The cartilage helps to reduce friction between two bones and acts as a cushion in the joint. It also helps to support our weight when we run, bend and stretch and also holds bones together in place. Patients with damaged cartilage in a joint (articular cartilage damage) experience inflammation – the area

swells, becomes warmer than other parts of the body, and is tender, sore, and painful. As the damage progresses, the affected limb will not move freely, with stiffness and range limitation. As the knee joint is a weight bearing joint of the body, with age there is wear and tear in this articular cartilage, eventually causing all symptoms of osteoarthritis. Protecting your knee cartilage is the best way to prevent knee pain . Identifying the extent of damage in your articular cartilage is best done with the help of dynamic ultrasound scanning by an expert. On the extent of cartilage damage , the treatment protocol is planned.

What are the conventional treatment options for knee osteoarthritis?

Initially doctors advise pain killers and physiotherapy, which provide temporary relief of symptoms. As damage continues, the patient is advised to undergo knee replacement surgery.

Plasma Therapy- The latest buzz worldwide is the use of plasma therapy for treating corona patients. However, plasma therapy also known as Platelet Rich Plasma therapy has multiple other uses. In regenerative medicine it helps regenerate damaged or degenerated body tissue, showing maximum efficacy in regenerating knee joint cartilages.

Regenerative Therapy- An Innovative Approach to Pain Relief

Regenerative medicine is a new emerging branch which deals with repairing and regenerating worn-out tissues using one's own blood. Every tissue of the body tends to degenerate and get damaged with aging, excessive use, or injury, resulting in pain and discomfort. Regeneration therapy facilitates regeneration of worn-out tissues, ensuring pain relief.

How does regeneration therapy work?

Human blood has many growth factors present in platelets. When injected into the torn tissue, they help repair it and regenerate new healthy tissue.

How is the procedure done?

The simple day care procedure involves withdrawing the patient's blood (15-20 ml) using a thin needle. The blood is transferred into a special container called cartridge, and placed in a machine for centrifugation, to separate blood into two different layers. The lower layer consists of red blood cells and the top layer is plasma. This plasma is subjected to another round of spin, to separate 2ml of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) from the rest of the plasma. PRP is rich in growth factors. The entire process of preparing PRP takes 20-30 minutes.

After the PRP is prepared, the patient is taken into the operation theatre. The torn area of the body is identified under ultrasound or fluoroscopic machine and the PRP containing growth factors is injected into the damaged area. This PRP creates a small amount of inflammation in the injected area, triggering the healing cascade and the release of several growth factors and enzymes. As a result, collagen will form, thus repairing and regenerating the tissue.

Advantages of PRP Therapy

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- Daycare procedure
- Fast pain relief
- No Bed Rest
- Go back to work on the same day
- A permanent solution to the problem
- No side effects or complications

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- ☐ The centre follows the exact protocol and provides treatment according to the individual's need to ensure good outcome
- ☐ Has treated over 3000 knee pain patients with regenerative therapy
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Isco's long and winding road towards redemption

Once the rage of Real Madrid and Spain, Isco was never the same player after the 2018 season. Five years hence, the now 31-year-old seems to have finally found a second wind and a loving home at Real Betis

Career Stats	Appearances	Goals	Assists
Valencia	7	2	-
Malaga CF	82	17	10
Real Madrid	353	53	57
Sevilla	19	1	3
Real Betis	20	3	3

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

There was a period when Francisco Alarcon 'Isco', looked like he was the next big thing in world football. The magician of Real Madrid had danced his way into the hearts of millions of Los Blancos fans; and after winning the UEFA Champions League in his first season at the Bernabeu, and playing a vital role at the attacking tip – Zinedine Zidane's midfield trident or diamond during their historic three-peat (2016, 17, 18) – the magic of Isco had mesmerised all of Europe.

Then came the downhill. Going into the 2018 FIFA Men's World Cup in Russia, Spain was among the favourites for the title, and all their hopes rested on Isco. However, things took a turn for the worse on the eve of the tournament when it emerged that Julen Lopetegui was to take up the managerial position left vacant by Zidane at Madrid.

This irritated the Spanish football federation, which saw the act as one of treason, and sacked Lopetegui just two days ahead of the opening match. Fernando Hierro, Spain's Director of Football, took temporary charge. But the damage was done. The whole incident disrupted the team's momentum and led to the team's shock exit in the round-of-16.

> For now, things are going well. I'm proving to myself that I still have football in me. I'm enjoying it, which is what I wanted, and I hope both Betis and I have a spectacular season

Titles

LaLiga	3
Copa del Ray	1
Spanish Super Cup	3
UEFA Supercup	3
UEFA Champions League	5
Club World Cup	4

The churn

With the high-profile departures of Zidane and the iconic Cristiano Ronaldo, Real Madrid went on a rough patch the following season, going through three managers over a single campaign, with the last one the returning Zidane himself. With all the turbulence surrounding him, Isco never regained his form in the famous white of Madrid. Lopetegui found the demands of the Bernabeu overwhelming, and was let go months into the season. Santiago Solari, who replaced Lopetegui, wanted to see his lads motivated, but it wasn't to be found in a depleted Isco. A fallout ensued and the coach relegated him to the bench.

With Zidane's return, fans were hoping for the reinvention of their much-loved magician. But Zidane too found it difficult to accommodate Isco in his new system which focused more on structural integrity and defensive stability. Isco's unpredictable movements of creativity had no role in this mechanical system. The arrival of Carlo Ancelotti (June 2021) also had no effect on Isco's career. It was the Italian who managed Isco through his first season in white (2013-14), winning him his first Champions League medal.

Rise of the next gen

By now the team's core had undergone a major change, with young guns like Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Federico Valverde ahead of the minutes-starved and out-of-touch senior. During Madrid's enthralling run to yet another Champions League title in 2022, Isco was an unused substitute in nine of the 13 games.

The end came in the summer of 2022 when Real Madrid chose not to renew the midfielder's contract, making him a free agent. That was when Sevilla, managed by Lopetegui, came calling. Isco did not have to think twice before accepting.

Isco expected a move back to the Andalusian capital, close to his hometown in Malaga, would be a welcome change and the start of a new chapter in his career. But it was not enough to arrest his slide, let alone push him back up. His stint at Sevilla was nothing but forgettable. Lopetegui lost his way with the team and was removed in early October. Reduced to just a shell of his former self and failing to keep up with the demands of the Sevilla dressing room, Isco left on mutual consent in December 2022 after an alleged physical altercation with the club's then sporting director Monchi.

German club Union Berlin saw an opportunity. Here was a former superstar who was a free agent and could still turn some eyes. They went in and Isco was prepared to try his luck at rejuvenating his career overseas. The deal was close to being sealed, with Isco flying to Berlin for medicals but it broke down.

With the transfer window closed, Isco was left without a team. It seemed like the end of a career that had the potential to be one of a kind. But Isco had not lost faith. Left with no club to train with, he retreated to his gym in the Spanish capital.

The Athletic reported an anonymous source close to Isco saying, "after Sevilla, he realised that he had to change or his career was over. He needed to do the work to recover the feeling of being professional, mentally and physically, to find himself again."

Opening of the door

The 2023 summer transfer window came with opportunities for the fallen veteran. Saudi Arabian clubs were frantically approaching European stars, including veterans, with ludicrous offers, and Isco got one too. Spanish club Real Sociedad also had an offer for Isco. But Real Betis caught Isco's eyes for two reasons - it played out of Seville and was coached by Manuel Pellegrini, under whose wings Isco first blossomed at Malaga (2011-13).

It is hard to decode who needed whom the most. With Betis' key playmaker Sergio Canales moving to Mexico, and icon Joaquin retiring, Betis had a huge gap to fill in their midfield. And Isco badly needed a club where he could reinvent his old self. It was a match made to work.

The season could not have begun better for both Isco and Betis. Isco found himself in Betis' starting lineup at Villareal, and the match ended in a 2-1 win for Betis, with Isco named Player of the Match.

As the season slowly gathered momentum, Isco showed that the Villareal performance was not a flash in the pan, as he put on magical performances, controlling the Betis midfield with ease and spearheading their attacking transition.

While Betis is currently 7th in the league with six wins and two defeats from 15 games, it sits atop in its UEFA Europa League group with one match left. Isco's impact in carrying the team is evident from the fact that he was named the Player of the Match in nine out of the thirteen games for the Los Verdiblancos.

Saturday, Dec. 9, could be the day Isco writes the final chapter of his return to the top. As Real Betis and Isco prepare to welcome Real Madrid - current table topper - to the Benito Villamarín, Spanish football is eagerly waiting to see how the tale unfolds.

Real Madrid has the reputation of being overrun by former players, and with Isco being in the best form he's been in since the three-peat era, Madrid supporters may well be nervous. If the young boy, whom they once adored, and watched with admiration returns to haunt them after reinventing himself, it will be a bitter-sweet moment.

GAME THEORY

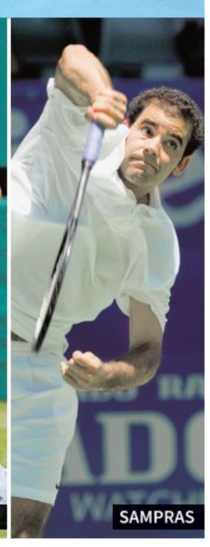
Peakovic

In mid-November, after clinching the ATP Finals in Turin (Italy) for the seventh time, Novak Djokovic broke Roger Federer's record for most year-end championships. The 36-year-old Serb achieved the feat in fewer attempts and also by winning fewer matches than the Swiss great

DJOKOVIC

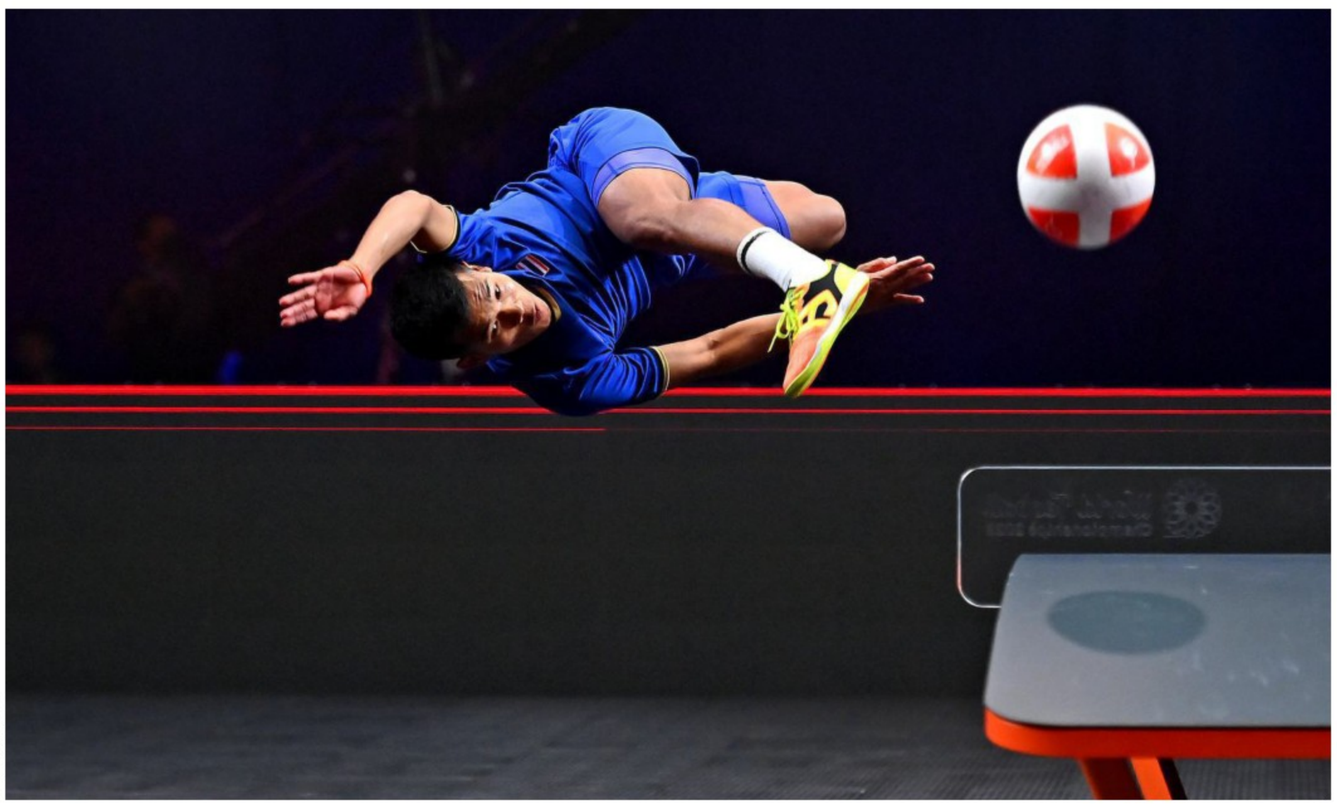
No.	Player	Titles	Years	Editions played	Total matches won
1	Novak Djokovic	7	2008, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23	16	50
2	Roger Federer	6	2003, 04, 06, 07, 10, 11	17	59
3	Ivan Lendl	5	1981, 82, 85, 86, 87	12	39
3	Pete Sampras	5	1991, 94, 96, 97, 99	11	35
4	Ilie Nastase	4	1971, 72, 73, 75	5	22
5	John McEnroe	3	1978, 83, 84	9	19
5	Boris Becker	3	1988, 92, 95	11	36
6	Bjorn Borg	2	1979, 80	5	16
6	Lleyton Hewitt	2	2001, 02	4	13
6	Alexander Zverev	2	2018, 21	6	12

FEDERER



SAMPRAS

PICTURE THIS



GETTY IMAGES

A teq-nical mash-up

One of the fastest growing sports in the world is this mix of Sepak Takraw and Table Tennis — Teqball. It is a sport played with a football on a curved TT table, and players toss the ball back and forth using every part of the body except the hands and arms. Teqball was invented in Hungary in 2012 by three football enthusiasts — a former professional Gabor Borsanyi, businessman Gyorgy Gattyan and computer scientist Viktor Huszar.

In less than 10 years, its highest governing body — FITEQ — was recognised by Olympic associations as well as global sports federations.

Having already been added to the 2023 European Games, the sport is now targeting Olympic inclusion.

The fact that the superstars of football instantly took to the game only added to its rise. Everyone from Messi and Neymar to Harry Kane and Philippe Coutinho — even pop star Justin Bieber — have been spotted engaging in competitive games of teqball.

The Teqball World Championships, which concluded on the 3rd of December this year in Bangkok, even saw Indian participation, with a 4-player contingent.

Boonkoom Tipwong of Thailand, *in the picture here*, came third in the men's doubles along with Phakpong Dejaroen.

CBI helps extradite person wanted for rape and cheating

The accused, Midhun V.V. Chandran, was booked for rape, cheating and criminal intimidation at the Mahadevapura police station in 2020

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police have successfully extradited an individual wanted in the city for rape, criminal intimidation, cheating, and other crimes from the U.A.E.

The Global Operations Centre of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) coordinated these efforts, the CBI said in a statement.

The accused, Midhun V.V. Chandran, was booked for rape, cheating, and criminal intimidation at the Mahadevapura police station in 2020.

The accused had fled to the U.A.E. and the CBI got Interpol to issue a red corner notice against him on January 20

However, he had fled to the U.A.E.

The CBI got Interpol to issue a red corner notice against him this January 20. According to the police, the victim and the accused met at a private company where they worked together in 2016.

The victim, in her complaint in 2020, said that the accused befriended her and forcefully had a physical relationship with her after promising to marry her.

The victim also alleged that the accused and his mother also took monetary favours from her promising marriage, but later reneged on the promise. They also harassed and threatened to kill her, she claimed.

Man held on molestation charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old woman on Namma Metro screamed for help as a man allegedly touched her inappropriately inside the metro car in Rajajinagar on Thursday morning.

As the man tried to flee at the next stop, security identified him, detained him, and handed him over to the Upparpet police.

The Upparpet police have identified the man as Lokesh, who has had several cases of theft booked against him.

The police said that Lokesh is a professional pickpocket and he claimed to have been trying to lift a purse from the woman's bag and in the process touched her, and had no intention of sexually harassing her.

IIPM conducts convocation ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 293 graduating students were awarded diplomas, with notable recognition given through nine gold medals and six all-round achievement awards across various programmes at the 20th annual convocation ceremony organised by the Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) on Friday.

Chairman and Managing Director of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Meenesh Shah, who was the chief guest, emphasised the importance being given to rural development and commercialisation of this sector.

He said: "Wherever you go, and whatever be your role, keep farmers at the centre and try to bring smiles to their faces".

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For Advertisement refer employment news paper No. **EN 36/8 dt 02-08 Dec 2023** and Full Notification Published in School website (www.rashtriyamilitaryschools.edu.in)

Adm Offr

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ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:08352-277816, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:08352-277817
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023-24/ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.12.2023

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಇವರು 2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 8443 ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ (ವಿವೇಕ ಶಾಲೆ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ ರೂ. 50.10 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 5 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1747 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.12.2023** ರಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/309/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023-24

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E-mail: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No. Sup/CR/174/2023-24 **December 5, 2023**

NOTIFICATION

It is intended to Conduct Books Exhibition at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru for procurement of text books for the library / departmental Libraries & also for SC / ST category students. Books exhibition is scheduled to be held from 18.12.2023 to 20.12.2023 & publishers / distributors / retailers are invited to participate in the exhibition by register their names along with required documents before 15.12.023 at 4.00 pm. For more information, they may contact the undersigned during Office hours. If, the last date for registration treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Director and Dean

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/738/2023-24

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Ref: MPVL/ADMN/2023-24/ **Dtd: 07.12.2023**

NOTIFICATION

Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd., invites applications from the eligible candidates for the post mentioned below.

Sl. No	Name of the Post	Number of Post	Pay & Emoluments	Qualification & Experiance
01	General Manager (Technical) **Work Location Mysuru**	01	Monthly Consolidated payment (salary is not a constraint for suitable candidate)	B.E/B.Tech/M.E/M.Tech (any discipline) with 05 to 10 years experience in production in a managerial capacity of paint manufacturing industry with turn-over of not less than Rs.100 crore. **Age No Bar**

(NOTE: The above post is purely on a contractual basis, initially for a period of one year and to be extendable upto two years upon satisfactory performance)
Interested candidates meeting the above requirements shall send their application along with necessary enclosures on or before **30.12.2023** to this office. The other terms of employment including job profile have been published in Company's **website www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in** and the candidates should go through the other conditions before submitting their application.

Sd/-Managing Director

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West) Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, No-98, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 03.
No: SADH(W)/TENDER/01/2023-24 **Dated: 08.12.2023**

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through **GOK KPP Portal** only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks. (Standard Tender Document KW-1, 2, 3 & 4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Category	Estimate Cost	EMD Amount
1	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Rajivnagara Warda Parks (Ward No-46) (Others)	5000000/-	100000/-
2	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Mahalakshmipura Ward Parks (Ward No-48) (SC)	4389000/-	43890/-
3	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Nagapura Ward Parks (Ward No-49) (Others)	5000000/-	100000/-
4	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Shankar Mutt Ward Parks (Ward No-51) (Others)	3151000/-	63020/-
5	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Shakthi Ganapathi Nagar Ward Parks (Ward No-52) (Others)	1901000/-	47525/-
6	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Dayanadanagara Ward Parks (Ward No-129) (Others)	5000000/-	100000/-
7	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Sri Ramamandira Ward Parks (Ward No-130) (Others)	1803000/-	45075/-
8	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Shivanagara Ward Parks (Ward No-131) (Others)	2352000/-	47040/-
9	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Rajajinagara Ward Parks and Medians (Ward No-132) (Others)	3140000/-	62800/-
10	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Basaveshwaranagara Ward Parks (Ward No-133) (Others)	2406000/-	48120/-
11	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Kamakshipalya Ward Parks (Ward No-134) (ST)	1679000/-	16790/-
12	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Mathikere Ward Parks (Ward No-54) (Others)	592000/-	14800/-
13	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Malleshwaram Ward Parks (Ward No-55) (Others)	1363000/-	34075/-
14	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Aramanenagara Ward Parks, Medians, Circles and Islands (Ward No-56) (Others)	11000000/-	165000/-
15	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Guttahalli Ward Parks (Ward No-57) (Others)	1313000/-	32825/-
16	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Kadu Malleshwara Ward Parks (Ward No-58) (Others)	695000/-	17375/-
17	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Subramanyanagara Ward Parks (Ward No-59) (SC)	366000/-	3660/-
18	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Dathathreya Temple Ward Parks (Ward No-122) (SC)	861000/-	10763/-
19	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Gandhinagara Ward Parks, Medians, Circles and Islands (Ward No-123) (Others)	11000000/-	165000/-
20	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Okalipuram Ward Parks (Ward No-125) (Others)	654000/-	16350/-
21	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Cotton Pette Ward Parks (Ward No-127) (Others)	311000/-	7775/-
22	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Binny Pette Ward Parks (Ward No-128) (Others)	451000/-	11275/-
23	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Rayapura Ward Parks (Ward No-154) (Others)	642000/-	16050/-
24	Maintenance of Horticulture works in K R Market Ward Parks (Ward No-157) (ST)	130000/-	1625/-
25	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Chamarajapete Ward Parks (Ward No-158) (Others)	1227000/-	30675/-
26	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Azadnagara Ward Parks (Ward No-159) (Others)	270000/-	6750/-
27	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Agrahara Dasarahalli, Dr. Raj Ward Parks (Ward No-135) (Others)	5817000/-	116340/-
28	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Govindarajanagara Ward Parks (Ward No-136) (Others)	2261000/-	45220/-
29	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Marenahalli Ward Parks (Ward No-137) (SC)	2901000/-	29010/-
30	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Kaveripura Ward Parks (Ward No-138) (Others)	3670000/-	73400/-
31	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Moodalapalya Ward Parks (Ward No-139) (Others)	937000/-	23425/-
32	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Maruthimandira Ward Parks (Ward No-140) (Others)	4532000/-	90640/-
33	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Nagarabhavi Ward Parks (Ward No-141) (ST)	5686000/-	56860/-
34	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Chandralayout Ward Parks (Ward No-142) (Others)	1392000/-	34800/-
35	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Nayandahalli Ward Parks & Medians (Ward No-143) (Others)	4482000/-	89640/-

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification is **08.12.2023. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from **11.12.2023 (3)** Pre bid meeting on **21.12.2023** at **11:30** am. **(4)** Tender Closing date **28.12.2023** at **4:30** pm. **(5)** Technical Bid Opening Date **02.01.2024** at **11:30** am **(6)** Financially Bid Opening Date: **After approval of Technical Bid.** (3) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: www.bbmp.gov.in. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West Zone)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intent to purchase all the piece and parcel of the residentially converted property bearing Sy. No. 99/2A (old Sy No.99/2), E khata No. 1052/99/2A measuring 3694 Sq. Mtrs vide official memorandum bearing No. ALN (JALA)SR/14/14-15, dated 30/06/2014 issued by District Commissioner, Bangalore District,situated at Tarabnahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk from Mr. M Jayaprakash S/O Muthurayappa whoever has any interest or objection to the sale of this property may contact the undersigned within 15 days.

East By : Remaining portion of Sy. No.99/2 belonging to Sri. Nagaraj
West By: Halla and Road
North By: Remaining Portion of Sy. No.99/2A and SY No. 99/2 B
South By: Land bearing Sy. No.100 belonging to Nagaraj

Srinivasa A N
Advocate
No. 30, 1st Floor, 5th Main Road
Gandhinagar
Bangalore - 560009
Or
Srinivasa A N
Advocate
No.27, SriramMandir Road
Basavanagudi
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9008300611

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to general public that our Client **Sri. Thimmegowda,** S/o Hanumanna, R/at. No. 18/B, 5th Cross, Patelappa Layout, Nagashettyhalli, Bengaluru 560094, intends to purchase: (i) **Item No. 1**: of the Schedule property from Smt. Gangamma, (Aadhar No: 8193 0776 3754) W/o. Late Muniyappa, R/at: No. 29, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, Basaveshwara Layout, Nagashettyhalli, Bengaluru-560094, & (ii) **Item No. 2:** of the Schedule property from Sri. M. Vijaykumar, (Aadhar No: 6592 7552 2369) S/o Muniyappa, R/at: No. 90, Kaval Byrasandra, R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032.

Any person having right, claim or title over the Schedule property may notify with documentary proof, either to us or to our client within **Five Days**, failing which, our Client assumes that there are no claims, whatsoever and thereafterwards our Client will proceed to purchase the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

Item No: 1: All that piece and parcel of Residential Site bearing Sy.No. 8, Katha No. 295/C, Assessment/property No. 8/3A & 8/3B, measuring to an extent of East- West: 20 Feet, North-South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 800 Sq. Ft., Situated at Nagashettyhalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, now comes with the Jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 100, bounded on: **East by:** Residential Site No. 9, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Private property, **South by:** Road.

Item No: 2: All that piece and parcel of Residential Site bearing Sy.No. 9, old Katha No. 295/C-8/3A-8/3B/9, BBMP PID No. 100-598-63, measuring to an extent of East-West: 20 Feet, North-South: 38 Feet, totally measuring 760 Sq. Ft., Situate at Nagashettyhalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, now comes with the Jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 100, bounded on: **East by:** Residential Site No. 10, **West by:** Residential Site No. 8, **North by:** Private property, **South by:** Road.

M/S. MATHRU ASSOCIATES, Advocates No.3/15-B, 2nd Floor, DBS Gurusiddappa Building, 4th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009. Ph: 9900900166.

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH 66)
O.S. No. 480/2022

Between: M/s HDFC LIMITED
Having its registered Office at Ramon House, H.T. Parek Marg, 169 Backbay Reclamation, Church Gate, Mumbai-400021. Interlia Having its Branch Office at **HDFC House** No. 51, Kastruba Road, Bangalore - 560001.
Represented by its Officer And Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Shridhar Chinni S/o Sri Chinni Venkataramana, Aged about 26 years
.... PLAINTIFF
:: AND ::
1) Mr. Abhishek Mishra, Aged Major, S/o Mr. Ananta Prasad Mishra, No. J-1501, NCC Meadows 2, Puttenahalli, Doddaballapur MN Road, Yelahanka MN road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.
2) Mrs. Mishra Sailaja, Aged Major, No. J-1501, NCC Meadows 2, Puttenahalli, Doddaballapur MN Road, Yelahanka MN road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.
... DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.7,34,778.00 (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundered And Seventy Eight Only)** apart from future interest of 8.40% in **O.S. No. 480/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 66**, Before Addl., City Civil and Session Judge at Bengaluru.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential Apartment bearing No. flat No. 10033, Floor Level 3, Tower 10 Avalahalli, Yelahanka Hobli, in the building called Prestige Royale Garden Phase II. **East by:** Railway Line and Private Properties, **West by:** road (Doddaballapura Road), **North by:** Private Properties; and **South by:** Private Properties. Measuring 1262 Sq. Ft. of carpet are and 1705 Sq. Ft of super built up area.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the Day of **06-01-2024 at 11 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 27th day of November 2023.

By the order of court
Sd/- Asst. Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru-560001

Sd/- FX & CO., Advocates
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1, Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OFFICE, BELAGAVI DISTRICT, BELAGAVI.
No. AB/CAL/CR-11/2023-24 **Dated:02-12-2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender Document for procurement of water tanker supply to drought affected Taluka's in Belagavi District
Under e-Procurement System

Amount put to Tender	95.00 Lakh
Last date and time for uploading of tender in e-Procurement platform	16-12-2023 17.30 pm
Time and date of opening of tenders: Technical Bid	21-12-2023 11.00 am
Time and date of opening of tenders: Commercial Bid	22-12-2023 11.01 am
Contact Person for queries	Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District, Telephone – 0831-2406321 E-Mail: deo.belagavi@gmail.com
Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication	Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District,Belagavi .
EMD Amount	Rs. 95.00 Thousand

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under instructions to Tenderers Section I of tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/-Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-741/MCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
(O/o CEE, Transmission Zone, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru)

NOTIFICATION
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka has accorded Environmental Clearance to the project of "Construction of Office Complex (Indhana Bhavana) project at Sy. No.11, Municipal No.5, Ward No.77, Devaraju Urs Road (Race Course Road), Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru Urban District by M/s Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited" vide Environmental Clearance Identification No.EC23B039KA172216 & letter No. SEIAA 148 CON (VIOL) 2023 Dated: 06.12.2023 issued by SEIAA.

The SEIAA has accorded the Environmental Clearance (EC) for the said project under the provision of EIA Notification-2006.

Copy of Environmental clearance is available in the website of KPTCL at **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** after **12.12.2023** and may also be seen in the website of SEIAA, Karnataka.

Sd/- K.S. Basava Prabhu,
Project Proponent & Superintending Engineer (Civil), KPTCL, Office Complex (Indhana Bhavana).

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VARSHITH K.M, R/a No.4061, Tower-4, 4th Floor, Prestige Lakside Habitat, Varthur Hobli, Gnjur village, Marthahalli Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087 have changed my name to Mohammad Fahad vide affidavit dt: 07.12.2023 sworn before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, B'lore

I, Fathima Ibrahim D/o Ibrahim Khaleel, residing at Lalitha Raj Nilaya, Behind Vakkaligara Kalyana Mantapa, Vijayapura Extension, Chikmagalur, Karnataka-577101, have changed my name to Danya Devaraj do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced the Hinduism religion and renounced the Islam religion with effect from 30/11/2022 for all purposes in future

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRISTI Pradeep, D/o Pradeep, R/a #1626, N.S.C.Bose Road, Robertsonpet, KGF, Opp Civil Hospital, Bangarapet, Kolar District-563122, Karnataka State, today camping at Bengaluru have changed my name to Shristi vide affidavit dt: 08.12.2023 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'lore

I, CHANNAGARAYA Swamy Nerale Rangaswamy, R/at No.166, 4th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Near 15F Bus Stop, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name from Channagaraya Swamy Nerale Rangaswamy to Channegaraya Swamy Nerale Rangaswamy vide affidavit dated 07/12/2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M. N, Bengaluru.

EXHIBITION / EVENTS FAIR

LAST 2 DAYS | ENTRY FREE
தமிழ்ப் புத்தகத் திருவிழா உழவுக் வங்களுரு
TAMIL BOOK FESTIVAL
Time: 10 am to 8 pm
ENGLISH, KANNADA BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE
1st - 10th December-2023
The Institution of Engineers
#3, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Opp. Indian Express, Bengaluru
FREE PARKING
9916542367
6363118988

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO VAID SIR MEANS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client negotiated to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property for agreed valuable Sale Consideration with Sri. **B.B SING** S/o Sri. Jagadish Narayan Singh, presently R/a No. 3247/2, First Floor, Ranjit Nagar, Patel Nagar South, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008, having Aadhar Card No:421837278710and PAN No. AAMPS1726R. Further aforesaid vendor acquired the title, rights and interest over the schedule property through the allotment made by the Karnataka Housing Board, Bangalore vide allotment Letter dated **25/09/1997** bearing **No: KHB/ALT5/NET1/748/SITE/97-98**. Thereafter the K.H.B, represented by its Assistant Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Project Office, Bangalore-64, executed the registered sale deed dated: **12/06/2006**,vide Document No: **BNG(U)YLNK/5745/2006-2007**, in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore, on receipt of the full cost of the site and put him in to physical possession and enjoyment of the property. Based on the sale deed the vendor got registered his name in the katha register maintained by the BBMP authority under the scheme of the KMC Act 1976 and its Rules, accordingly BBMP has assigned the **Katha No. 909/909/748/707 CHS**, and he paid property tax as assessed and demanded by the respective authority. Further my client vendor represents that, it is hisself-acquired property and acquired through his own source and means and savings, and no one is having any manner of title, rights and interest over the property.

Any person/society/firm or any other body, having any manner of, title, interest, right/s, subsisting rights and claim/s on the below mentioned Schedule of Property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing to me at the under mentioned address through Registered Post Acknowledgment Due along with the supporting documentary proof, within **TEN DAYS (10)**from the date of this public notice. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction in terms of law.

SCHEDULE

All that the piece and parcel of the residential vacant Site bearing **No.748 (New No.909/748 Assigned by BBMP), Land Bank, 707 CHS, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore 560064**, formed and allotted by the Karnataka Housing Board, Bangalore, now comes under the BBMP Jurisdiction, Attur Ward No: 3, **measuring East to West: 18 Meters** and **North to South: 12 Meters**, totally measuring 216Sq.Mtrs, and bounded on:
East by: Road,
West by : Site No:751
North by: Site No. 747,
South by : Site No. 749.

M. Veerabhadraiah, Advocate
10thFloor, Tower Block, Unity Building, Mission Road, Bangalore-560002.
Mob: 94483 88949.
e-Mail: ijoorrmgm@gmail.com

TENDERS

THE TRAVANCORE SUGARS & CHEMICALS LTD.
(A Kerala Government Company)
Valanjavattom P.O., Thiruvalla, Kerala - 689 104
Tele: Office: 0469-2610711, 2610712, 2610446
Email: travancoresugars65@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoresugars.com

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) for the supply of ENA 45 lakh BL **(Tender ID 2023_TSC_629530_1)**, for the period 01.01.2024 to 31.03.2024, for the supply of Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA). The last date is 19.12.2023 at 4.00 PM. Contact Office / Website.

Place : Thiruvalla **(Sd)**
Date : 08.12.2023 **GM**

WATER PROOFING

BUILDING SOLUTIONS: waterproofing roof, Tank, Skylight, Bathroom, House painting, Fabrication, Carpentry, Epoxy coating. Macbond. 9448572697

TENDERS

E-Tender Notice

HOMCO invites online Tenders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning & validation cGMP Model Semi Automatic Ointment Cartoning Machine, Ointment Filling machine, Trituration Machine, Ointment manufacturing Plant, Bulk Packing Line for Tablets, Tablet Inspection Machine, Hydraulic Tincture Press and Tablet De Dusting Machine. For more details visit our website www.homcokerala.com and etenders.kerala.gov.in

(Sd/-)
Managing Director
The Kerala State Homoeopathic Co-Operative Pharmacy Ltd.
Pathirappally, Alappuzha - 68852
0477 - 2258012, 9946668795

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII ADDL.CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. No. 25754/2023
Hg: 16.01.2024

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Limited having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Cirle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390 007 and its branch office at Mythree Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Shyam Kumar M.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Shyam Kumar M., Aged about 38 years, S/o. Munjyappa, R/a 157, 25th Main 28th Cross Satvinahalli Chikkabommasandra Judicial Layout Yelahanka, Bangalore- 560064

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 4,53,696.62/-(as on 08/03/2023)** along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the LXXII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH 73] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the **16-01-2024** at **11:00 A.M** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hard and the seal of this court, this the **05th** day of **December, 2023.**

By Order of Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall, Unit Bengalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109,Commerce House,
971, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

Gauri murder: High Court grants bail to Mohan Nayak

The accused, a native of Sampaje in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, was charged under provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act, 2000

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has granted bail to Mohan Nayak N., who is arraigned as Accused Number 11 in the murder of editor-activist Gauri Lankesh, on the grounds that the trial has been delayed for no fault of his and that it might not be completed any time soon.

There are 527 chargesheet witnesses in the case and only 90 of them have been examined in the past two years, even though the High Court in February, 2019, directed the trial court to expedite the trial while dismissing Nayak's earlier bail plea, the High Court said, while noticing that he has been in judicial custody since July 18, 2018.

Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on Thursday while allowing a petition filed by Nayak, 51, who had moved the High Court, after the trial court this July 6 refused to release him on bail on the grounds of inordinate delay in the trial.

Nayak, a native of Sampaje in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, was charged under the provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA), 2000.

This is the first bail to be granted in the murder case of Gauri Lankesh.

The High Court granted the bail on the grounds that the trial has been delayed for no fault of the accused and that it might not be completed any time soon

Analysis of charges

While analysing the charges for the limited purpose of examining grant of bail, the High Court noted that though he is alleged to be a member of a syndicate committing organised crime under KOCCA, the material on record would show that he is not arraigned as co-accused in any of the other cases registered against the other accused persons for committing organised crime.

Meanwhile, the High Court pointed out that the Supreme Court, in its judgment on invocation of KCOCA against him, had observed that the material collected against Nayak was not sufficient to invoke Section 3(1) of the KCOCA.

Referring to statements of witnesses in the chargesheet, the court said that none have stated he was part of a meeting of the other accused persons, wherein they had conspired to murder Gauri.

Noticing that a confession statement of the accused was recorded prior to invoking KCOCA, the High Court said that Section 19 of the KCOCA may not be applicable, while pointing out that confessions were not recorded by an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police in a manner provided in Section 19.

Not punishable with death

Even if the charges for offences under Sections 3(2), 3(3) and 3(4) of the Act are proved, the High Court said they are not punishable with death or life imprisonment, and the minimum punishment is five years.

The High Court directed Nayak to execute a personal bond for ₹1 lakh with two sureties for the like sum, and appear on all the dates of hearing before the trial court, unless exempted.

This is the first bail to be granted in the murder case of Gauri.

SIT and Kavita Lankesh to file appeals in Supreme Court

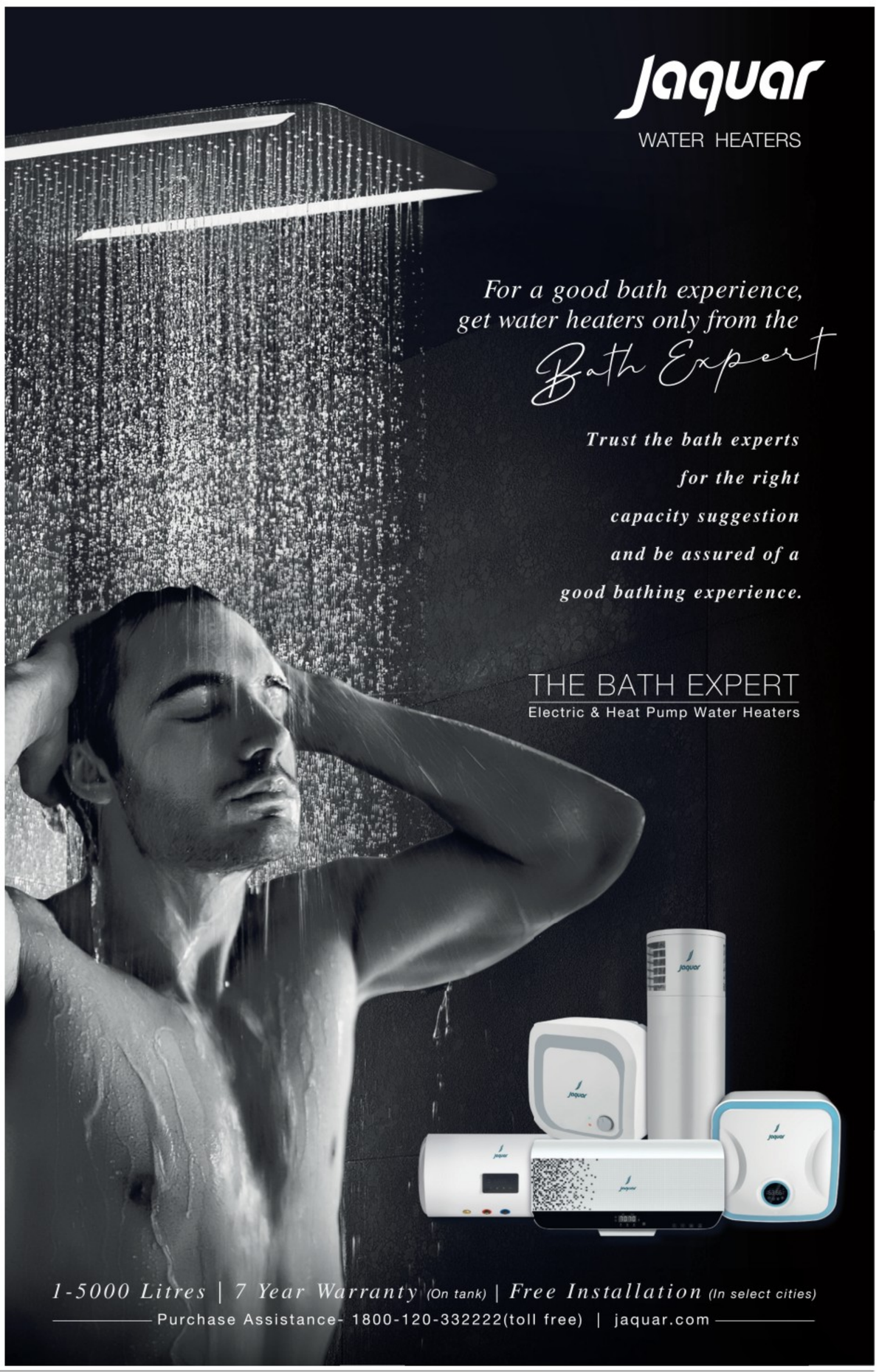
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gauri Lankesh's sister Kavita Lankesh and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Gauri Lankesh murder case have decided to file separate special leave petitions (SLPs) challenging the bail granted to Mohan Nayak N.

"I have asked my counsel in Delhi to file a petition challenging the bail granted to the accused," Ms. Kavita Lankesh told *The Hindu*.

In 2021, the High Court of Karnataka ordered dropping charges under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act against Nayak, following which Ms. Kavita Lankesh and the SIT challenged it in the Supreme Court, which had quashed the High Court order confirming KCOCA charges against the accused.

The chargesheet against him alleges that he had taken a house in Kumbalagodu on rent under the garb of running an acupuncture clinic and the killers of Gauri Lankesh stayed in the house on the day of the murder.



Second edition of Tamil Book Festival

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The second edition of Tamil Book Festival organised by the Karnataka Tamil Journalists' Association, which was inaugurated recently on the Institution of Engineers campus, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi in Bengaluru, will conclude on Sunday.

On Friday, Padma Shri awardee and former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist Mylswamy Annadurai took part in an interaction *Face-to-face with the Scientist*, where over 200 students from different schools and colleges of Karnataka took part.

A.V. Mathiazhagan, general secretary of the association, said that since the launch of the festival, they have handed over cash prize of over ₹1 lakh to students who have won in various competitions, including quiz, Tamil language skill competition, essay writing, debate etc.

"Visitors get a chance to buy Tamil, English, Kannada books and witness the performance of Silambattam. They will also get to know the numerous traditional games of India that we have forgotten today," said Mr. Mathiazhagan.

Govt. to table provisions to legalise ground rent with retrospective effect

The amendment will stop the BBMP from paying nearly ₹2,300 crore to builders. Builders had earlier approached the High Court challenging the ground rent system, and the court termed it 'illegal' and directed the civic body to return the money

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will be tabling an amendment to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act (BBMP), 2020 to regularise the collection of ground rent with retrospective effect.

The Cabinet on Thursday gave its approval for the provision that was sent by the Urban Development Department (UDD).

The amendment will stop the BBMP from paying nearly ₹2,300 crore to builders. The builders had earlier approached the High Court (HC) challenging the ground rent system, and the court termed the system "illegal" and directed the BBMP to return the money to the builders.

The BBMP collects ground rent from builders for they using public space to dump construction material. FILE PHOTO

According to sources in the real estate community, the BBMP collects ground rent from builders for them using public space to dump construction material.

This, along with scrutiny fee and various cess, is linked to the guidance value of property.

The civic body was collecting ground rent even when the builders did not dump construction material on footpaths and public spaces maintained by the BBMP, the builders contended.

Now except those building independent houses in small sites, the bigger realtors constructing group housing projects no longer dump construction material on public spaces.

A builder who petitioned against the practice in the High Court argued that collecting ground rent from builders when they did not utilise public space was illegal.

A BBMP official talking to *The Hindu* said to avoid payments owing to insufficient funds in the coffers, the Town Planning Department proposed to bring an amendment to the BBMP Act, 2020 to make this provision with retrospective effect.

The State government favoured this proposal and the approval was given in the Cabinet.

However, the builders said the government may now make a provision in the Act with retrospective effect, but they argued the provision would remain "unfair" as it was levying ground rent on builders who do not use public spaces. The amendment is likely to again face legal challenge, sources said.

'Construction of bridge over SWD is not encroachment'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The construction of a bridge over a rajakaluve (storm-water drain) to connect private properties on either side of the drain, cannot be termed as an encroachment, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while allowing a petition filed by M/s Janaadhar India Pvt. Ltd., a housing company.

The petitioner-company had questioned the action of the tahsildar of Anekal taluk in Bengaluru Urban district, in treating the construction of three overbridges constructed by the company as encroachments, and putting up a notice on the property stating that the bridges encroach upon the rajakaluve.

The tahsildar acted on a complaint by one P.M. Krishna in 2016 on the construction of the bridges to connect the apartment complexes, named Janaadhar Shubha, constructed on land in survey numbers 39/1, 39/2, 40/3, and 42/1 of M. Medahalli village, Attibele hobli, in Anekal taluk. The company, after obtaining permission from the Nelamangala Town Planning Authority in 2013, had constructed 1,128 flats on the land and had also secured occupancy certificates.

The court noted that the planning authority, which had approved the plan for apartment complex on either sides of the rajakaluve after securing the 'no objection' of the tahsildar, had not found any violation of the sanctioned plan.

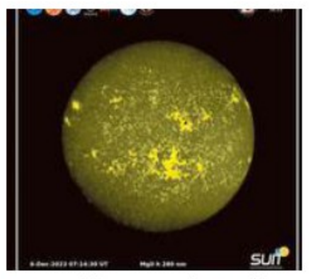
Also, the court pointed out that the tahsildar did not find any construction within the rajakaluve obstructing the flow of water.

The petitioner-company had constructed the overbridges to enable the residents of apartment complex to go from one area to the other since the rajakaluve bifurcates the property, the court noted, while pointing out the complaint of encroachment is meaningless when the tahsildar himself had certified the plan, before construction of apartment complex, indicating that there was no encroachment in the plan submitted before the authority for approval.

Meanwhile, the court directed the tahsildar to remove the notice board.

From Page One

Aditya-L1 captures full-disk images of Sun



ISRO said that among the notable features revealed are sunspots, plage, and quiet Sun regions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This collaboration included ISRO, the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), the Centre for Excellence in Space Science Indian (CESSI) at IISER-Kolkata, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru, the Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO-PRL), and Tezpur University Assam.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 09
RISE 06:30 SET 17:54
RISE 03:00 SET 14:57

SUNDAY, DEC. 10
RISE 06:30 SET 17:54
RISE 03:50 SET 15:39

MONDAY, DEC. 11
RISE 06:31 SET 17:54
RISE 04:44 SET 16:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. The weather will be comfortable but humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE OF INVITING TENDER
E-Tender No: SNT-JP-18R-2023-24

DRM (S&T)/ North Western Railway/Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. **Name of the Work with its Location**: Replacement of power supply equipments for OFC equipments at 50 stations over Jaipur Division. **Tender Value (Rs): 2,36,38,786.60/- Bid Security (Rs): 2,68,200/- Tender submission & closing Date & Time on website: 29/12/2023, Up to 15.00 hrs. Website Particulars & Notice board location: www.ireps.gov.in , DRM office/NWR/Jaipur.**

AK-1260

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general Public that, our client has lost/misplaced the Original General Power of Attorney dated: 20/12/2011, attested on 22/12/2011, with respect to the land bearing Sy No.68/2B (now Sy No.68/2B3), measuring 0-11 Guntas, situated at Janthagondanahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. Our client has lodged the Police Complaint in Bengaluru City (The Karnataka State Police) dated: 05/12/2023, vide E-Lost Report No. 0835112/2023. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title & Interest over the above said property or on the above mentioned original document may intimate the same in writing to the under signed along with documentary evidence in support of their claims **within 07 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will presumed that the above mentioned original document is lost and our client and his successors in interest or any other person/s claming under him are free to deal with above said property as if no valid claims are subsisting against above said property.

It is hereby informed that, the General Public are restrained from transacting with the above said land except our client and his successor-in-interest., If any person holding the above mentioned document may kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest.

SACHIN AITHAL, Advocate
No.249, 1st Floor, 19th Main, Sector-4, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102. Mob: 9980910789/8970910789

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಲಯ, ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ–ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ –581301.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382–228935 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 229735 E-mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com
ನಂ.: ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನಿ&ನೈವಿ/ಕಾರವಾರ/ಏಬಿ–1/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್/JJM/2023–24/2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.12.2023

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ/ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document KW- 3&4** ನಂತೆ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು: (1) INDENT2428 CALL-2 (2) INDENT2353/CALL-4 (3) INDENT2269/CALL-6 (4) INDENT2370/CALL-6 (5) INDENT2360/CALL-4 (6) INDENT2305/CALL-6 (7) INDENT2752/CALL-4 (8) INDENT2375/CALL-6

(1) Downloading of document through e-proc portal: **07.12.2023 to 14.12.2023 up to 16.30 Hrs.** (2) Time & date of Pre-Bid Conference: **11.12.2023 Time: 11.30 Hrs.** Venue: O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Po: Habbuwada, Karwar- Uttara Kannada Dist. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **14.12.2023 Time: 16.30 Hrs.** (4) Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **15.12.2023 Time : 17:00 Hrs.** (5) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: Will be informed technically qualified bidders after approval of Technical Bid.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ. ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ).

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/429/23-24 dt.08.12.2023

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
Email : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No: 08375-232454
No. EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2/Tender/2023-24/Dated:07-12-2023

E-Procurement Short Time Tender Notification No: 12/2022-23

The Panchayath Raj Engineering Department through Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Haveri on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites the E-Portal Tender as per KW-1, 2 & 3 from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D registered for e-Procurement for each of the following works **All Head** head of account work as follows. Details can also be obtained in www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

(1) Work of Development At Tadas Village in Shiggaon Taluk of Haveri District **(INDENT1743)** (2) Construction of Ground floor and first floor Toilet Block Building in Premises of Lions Mahatma Gandhi Education Society Ranebennur Town **(SC) (INDENT2091)** (3) Proposed Construction of Class Room Building (2 Nos) for Government Pre-University College at Belagalapete Village in Hangal Taluk**(SC) (INDENT2133)** (4) Proposed Construction of Class Room Building (1 Nos) for Government Pre-University College at Chikkounshi Hosur village in Hangal Taluk **(INDENT2143)** (5) Proposed Construction of Class Room Building (1 Nos) for Government Pre-University College at Araleshwar Village in Hangal Taluk **(INDENT2151)** (6) Construction of Sarvagna Viddyapith (R) Samudhay Bhavan At Masur village in Rattihalli Taluk **(INDENT2148)**

(1) Last date for uploading completed tender form And documents e-procurement documents through online : **14-12-2023** upto 4.00 PM (2) Date of Technical bid opening (if possible) : **15-12-2023** @ 5.00 AM (3) Date of Financial bid Opening (if possible) : **19-12-2023** @ 11.00 AM

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through our website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Haveri

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/360/2023-24

IDEMI ISO 9001:2015 AS 9100:2016
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Organised by IDEMI Mumbai Ministry of MSME Govt. of India

Government Certificate course on
CYBER SECURITY & ETHICAL HACKING

Course duration : 2 days Time -10AM to 5PM | **Date -16,17 Dec.2023**

venue -IDEMI EXTENSION CENTRE Bangaluru
c/o MSME DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ,WEST OF CHORD RD, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560010

After successful completion, certificate will be issued

Email id:training@idemi.org http://.idemi.org Ph. (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4

Contents : Cyber crime & terrorism, Type of attacks, Goal of Security & computer Forensic, Social Media, Mobile Hacking, Cyber Hacking, Digital Forensic, Data Recovery.

Fees -5000+18% GST in the name of IDEMI (includes breakfast ,lunch & tea)

For Registration Scan QR Code

Contact-9886123011,9403566219,7588036918,9951980554

Documents required : 2 passport photos, Adhar card xerox, Education proof xerox

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga
EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/1655 **Date : 07.12.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) 7072 (2) 7073 (3) 7074** Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **16.12.2023 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **18.12.2023 at 11.30 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **20.12.2023 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **6 months (180 days)**

DIPR/SMG/No.36-12 zenkar/2023-24

sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/Klb/Div/TS-6/Tender Notification/2023-24/ 6210 Dated: 06.12.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-4) under 8443 Head of Account **Proposed Construction of Commercial Tax Department Building Behind Existing Building on Railway Station Road at Kalaburagi. Under 8443 Deposit Contribution for the year 2022-23 PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT6189,** 2) Estimated Cost : **Estimate cost Maximum 291.36 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: PWD, Registered Contractor Class-II and above, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per KPPP portal Max of Rs. 4,38,000.00 Lakhs, 5) Pre Bid Meeting: **22/12/2023 (11.00 Hrs)**, 6) Last date for queries: **26/12/2023 (16.30 Hrs)**, 7) Last date for submission of tender: **27/12/2023 (16.00 Hrs),** 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **29/12/2023 (16.30 Hrs),** 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **01/01/2024 (16.30 Hrs)**, 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/546/KSMC&A/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBMP, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, Bengaluru - 560091.
No: SADH/RRN/TENDER/01/2023-24 **Date: 08-12-2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Horticulture Maintenance of Parks.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Estimated Amount (in Rs.)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Doddabidarekallu Ward Parks in Ward No. 26. **(Others)**	**16,38,542/-**	**40,964/-**
2	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Lingadeeranahalli Ward Parks in Ward No. 27. **(Others)**	**19,76,042/-**	**49,401/-**
3	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Herohalli Ward Parks in Ward No. 28. **(SC)**	**19,83,646/-**	**24,796/-**
4	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Ullalu Ward Parks in Ward No. 29. **(ST)**	**57,81,542/-**	**72,269/-**
5	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Nagadevanahalli Ward Parks in Ward No. 30. **(Others)**	**47,77,854/-**	**95,557/-**
6	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Bande Mutt Ward Parks in Ward No. 31. **(Others)**	**45,91,833/-**	**91,837/-**
7	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Kengeri Ward Parks in Ward No. 32. **(SC)**	**27,21,563/-**	**34,020/-**
8	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Hemmigepura Ward Parks in Ward No. 33. **(Others)**	**54,03,542/-**	**1,08,071/-**
9	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in J.P. Park Ward Parks in Ward No. 34. **(Others)**	**1,46,58,750/-**	**2,19,881/-**
10	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Yeshwanthpura Ward Parks in Ward No. 35. **(Others)**	**7,71,250/-**	**15,425/-**
11	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Jalahalli Ward Parks in Ward No. 36. **(Others)**	**42,40,000/-**	**84,800/-**
12	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Lakxmidevi Nagar Ward Parks in Ward No. 38. **(Others)**	**3,75,000/-**	**7,500/-**
13	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Laggere Ward Parks in Ward No. 39. **(Others)**	**20,08,750/-**	**40,175/-**
14	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Kottigepalya Ward Parks in Ward No. 41. **(ST)**	**7,31,250/-**	**9,141/-**
15	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Srigandhada Kaval Ward Parks in Ward No. 42. **(SC)**	**40,67,125/-**	**50,839/-**
16	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Mallathahalli Ward Parks in Ward No. 43. **(Others)**	**44,35,958/-**	**88,719/-**
17	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Jnanabharathi Ward Parks in Ward No. 44. **(Others)**	**1,08,48,813/-**	**1,62,732/-**
18	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Rajarajeshwari Nagar Ward Parks in Ward No. 45. **(Others)**	**56,19,479/-**	**1,12,390/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-12-2023. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **21-12-2023 at 11.30 AM. 3)** Date of Tender Closing: **28-12-2023 upto 4.30 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **02-01-2024 at 11.30 AM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, BBMP.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Chitradurga.
Government Residential School Building, Chitradurga-577501.
E-mail : ddswdcta@gmail.com Ph:08194-295954

No: DD/SWD/Chitradurga/HR TENDER/CR-01/2023-24
Date: 05-12-2023

Tender Notice

Short-Term Re-tenders are invited at the district level through e-procurement to provide the services of Group 'C' and 'D' group vacancies through outsourcing agencies for the year 2023-24 in Chitradurga District, Social Welfare Department, Scheduled Caste Welfare Department and Minorities Welfare Department Offices, Students Hostel and Morarji Desai / Kittur Rani Chennamma / Atal Bihari Vajpayee / Dr. B.R. Ambedkar / Smt. Indira Gandhi Residential Schools.

The tender details are as follows. (1) Tender Number: SWD/2023-24/SE0037/CALL-2 Date: 05-12-2023 (2) Estimated Tender Amount Rs: 17,29,61,000/- (3) Date to start uploading tender form: 05-12-2023 (4) Last date for uploading tender form: 14-12-2023 at 5.00 pm (5) Date and time of opening of technical envelope: 16-12-2023 at 11.00 am (6) Date and time of opening of financial envelope:- 18-12-2023 at 11.00 am (7) EMD Rs: 34,59,000/-

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/394/2023-24

Sd/- Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Chitradurga

Bengaluru had most acid attack victims in 2022, shows NCRB data

City recorded eight victims from six incidents, while Delhi had most acid attack incidents (seven) and the same number of victims; NCRB considered 19 metropolitan cities to present the data

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There were also three attempt to attack with acid cases registered in 2022 in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru had the most acid attack victims (eight) from six incidents among metropolitan cities in 2022, according to the recently released crime statistics for 2022 by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

There were also three attempt to attack with acid cases registered during the same year.

The NCRB considered 19 metropolitan cities to present city-wise data. Delhi had the highest number of acid attack incidents (seven) and the same number of victims.

In 2022, an acid attack case in Bengaluru rattled citizens after one Nagesh Babu allegedly stalked a 24-year-old woman for several years, and splashed half-a-litre of acid at her for rejecting his marital advances on April 28. After a massive manhunt, the police nabbed the culprit from Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu in May, 2022.

Soon after this, two similar cases were reported in the city in 2022. On June 1, a Janata Adak was arrested by the Halasurugate police after he allegedly threw acid at Mantu Santra, a 32-year-old labourer over a trivial row.

On June 10, one Ahmed had allegedly splashed toilet cleaning liquid at the face of his woman friend, who refused to marry him.

Even earlier this year, in February, a 17-year-old girl suffered injuries to her eye after one Sumanth allegedly threw acid at her for spurning his overtures.

These cases and the NCRB data have caused alarm among women in the city.

"It is so sad that what we assume to be a modern progressive city like Bengaluru tops the charts in acid attacks and dowry harassment cases. The sad part is that society is becoming habituated and is normalising these crimes against women as mere crimes and is not addressing the social context which makes these crimes possible. Despite demands by the women's movement for decades now, we are not able to even ensure regulated availability of acid. The crime and punishment in acid attack cases has been so warped, it doesn't act as a deterrent," said K.S. Vimala, a leader of the All-India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA).

Assault against women

Just after Delhi and Mumbai, Bengaluru has the third highest number of cases of assault on women with an intent to outrage modesty (757 cases and 763 victims) and 488 cases of assault on women with 492 victims, the NCRB data revealed.

Apart from this, 120 cases of sexual harassment, 63 cases of Assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to disrobe, 16 cases of voyeurism and 70 cases of stalking were booked in Bengaluru in the year 2022.

However, the city tops the chart in registering the highest number of dowry harassment cases among the 19 metro cities. Of the total 1,221 dowry harassment cases registered in these cities, 964 were in Bengaluru alone.

Civic body asks telecom companies to declare unauthorised OFCs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to BBMP data, 31 companies have taken permission to lay 12,463 km of ducts, but on the ground the companies have laid 97,000 km of ducts. FILE PHOTO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued a public notice asking telecom service providers (TSPs) and Internet service providers to declare unauthorised optical-fibre cables (OFCs) laid in the city after which the same will be regularised.

According to the latest data available with the BBMP, 31 companies had taken permission to lay 12,463 km of ducts, but on the ground the companies have laid 97,000 km of ducts. This means 84,537 km of ducts are illegal. For one km of ducts, TSPs have to pay about ₹850 and non-telecom companies have to pay ₹450 as ground rent.

This July, Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar had instructed the civic body to prepare a report on the permission given for ducts in the city and an on-ground report of the ducts.

He had then said that the civic body will revise the penalty for illegal cables and regularise all existing OFCs in the city.

Former BJP councillor N.R. Ramesh, who headed a OFC committee in the BBMP council in 2013 and spearheaded a similar regularisation exercise in 2015, said the civic body had the potential to earn up to ₹15,000 crore from the exercise.

"In 2015, a similar announcement was made and companies only declared 1,200 km of illegally laid OFCs, which were regularised after collecting penalty. Even now the same process will likely be followed," he said.

However, with no severe repercussions for laying illegal OFCs, TSPs and Internet service providers lack incentive to declare OFCs and pay the penalty incurring huge costs, sources in the civic body said.

While there have been suggestions made by Mr. Ramesh that the civic body pull out or pour acid into illegally laid ducts to make these OFCs defunct, as a way to force these companies to come around, sources in the civic body said this would disrupt mobile and Internet services in the city, and given that the city is an IT hub, these services were considered critical.

Technical glitch on website threatens NAAC accreditation of many government colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Many government first grade colleges in Karnataka are struggling to make an online application for the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation and submit their self study report (SSR) document, owing to a technical glitch on the website of Department of Collegiate Education, Karnataka.

The issue has not been resolved and the last date for submission is December 11.

Many principals have now expressed apprehension of their colleges losing NAAC accreditation over a technical glitch.

Earlier, the last date for submission was November 25.

However, owing to the same glitch, several colleges were unable to apply and on their request the deadline was extended to December 11.

"Though the deadline was extended, the glitch has not been fixed, despite directions from the Commissioner of Department of Collegiate Education (DCE). We are not able to upload any file beyond 2 MB on the website," said a principal of a government first grade college.

Sources in the department said with just two days away from the deadline, nearly 80% of the colleges are yet to make their applications and submit all relevant documents online.

The colleges should submit the letter of intent online after uploading the SSR document. This will be processed by the NAAC and a decision is usually communicated within 15 days and a NAAC team visits these colleges within three weeks. Failure to upload the SSR document may lead to the applications being rejected, which will lead to loss of NAAC accreditation, sources said.

Protest by police in Chikkamagaluru is 'absolutely unacceptable': High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

What a section of the police personnel allegedly did was absolutely unacceptable to this court and to the civil society, to say the least, said the High Court of Karnataka, while expressing anguish over the incident in which a group of police resorted to a demonstration on the streets in Chikkamagaluru recently.

Several police personnel and their family members held a snap demonstration on December 2 to protest against suspension of six personnel and arrest of one among them for allegedly assaulting a young advocate inside a police station on the night of November 30. However, the arrested constable was released on bail in the police station itself when the police were demonstrating on the streets.

The police had taken Preetam, an advocate, to the station on November 30 after he objected to their action of taking away the keys of his two wheeler even after he agreed to pay the fine for not wearing a helmet.

An FIR was registered against six personnel, including an SI, an assistant sub-inspector, and four constables for assaulting the advocate on December 1.

Strict discipline is the first requirement of the force, and otherwise, it would be a case of fence eating the crop, a Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, observed while hearing a PIL petition, which the court *suo motu* initiated on the incident of assault. However, the Bench refrained from deliberating more on the demonstration by the police at this stage after the Advocate-General promised that it was being looked into seriously.

Meanwhile, the government told the court that it had transferred to the CID the six FIRs – one registered against six police personnel, another against Mr. Preetam for allegedly slapping a policeman, and four others registered against members of the Chikkamagaluru Bar Association for allegedly obstructing the police – for investigation.

In another development, the Bench set up a 10-member committee to evolve a congenial atmosphere and restore amiability between the Bar, the police, and the Chikkamagaluru administration, and asked the panel to hold a meeting on December 9 in the office of the Advocate-General in Bengaluru.

Members of the committee are: Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty, Principal Secretary, Home, Director-General & Inspector-General of Police or his nominee, former Advocate-General and senior advocate Udaya Holla, and senior advocates Jayakumar S. Patil, V. Lakshminarayana, K.N. Phaneendra, D.R. Ravishankar, Vivek Subba Reddy, who is president, Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, and the president, Chikkamagaluru Bar Association.

While asking the committee to make recommendations for preventing the recurrence of dispute/difference between the members of the bar and the law enforcement agencies in the best interest of the public at large, the Bench adjourned further hearing till December 12.

Carcasses of tiger, cub found in Gundlupet, poisoning suspected

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The carcasses of a tiger and its cub were found in a field in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district in a partially decomposed condition.

They were found in Meluru village, bordering Terkanambhi on Thursday.

The place where the carcasses were found is about 21 km from Biligiriranganathaswamy temple tiger reserve. The cause of death of the two tigers is yet to be ascertained.

There is talk in conservation circles that the two tigers may have been poisoned as their carcasses were found in the same place. In case the deaths were due to injuries sustained in a territorial fight, the probability of the cub too dying at the same place is low, said the sources.

The carcass of a tiger was found in a field.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the traditional sampling methods can detect traces of poison for 72 hours, it does not yield any result in case of carcasses that are more than 72 hours old. In this case, it is likely that the carcasses are about 48 to 72 hours old. Hence, sources suggested that advanced Elisa kit be procured through import, as they can detect poison even if the carcasses are a week old.

Samples from the viscera need to be frozen and stored till the kits are imported.

Imported kits were first used to crack the death of four tigers, which were poisoned in Goa in January 2020. The suggestion to import kits is pertinent as even if the Forest Department nails down the culprits, they cannot prove their involvement in a court of law in the absence of scientific or clinching evidence, the sources added.

State should capitalise on China +1 strategy: Gunjan Krishna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The guests at the BCIC Manufacturing Conclave in Bengaluru on Friday.

The China+1 strategy is gaining prominence and a lot of investment is going to South-East Asia and therefore it is crucial for industries in Karnataka to work together to capitalise on these openings, urged Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial, Development & Director Industries & Commerce.

China+1 is a strategy that encourages companies to minimise their supply chain dependency on China by diversifying the countries they source parts from.

Mr. Krishna said: "The world was at an inflection point, experiencing significant changes, especially after the pandemic. The pandemic accelerated existing changes, presenting with fourfold challenges as well as opportunities".

"Firstly, we need to address climate change and we need to minimise environmental impact in our manufacturing processes. The second challenge involves navigating geopolitical dynamics and seizing opportunities amid global uncertainties," she added.

According to her, the third challenge revolves around the increasing use of AI in global manufacturing. While advanced countries move towards robotics, in a country like India with a vast population, balancing AI adoption with employment generation is critical.

The fourth challenge stemmed from global demographic shifts and she added: "Aging populations in some countries create opportunities for us if we can provide competitive manufacturing solutions. However, we must be vigilant and innovative, as industries seek efficient and automated processes".

She was addressing industry captains at the BCIC Manufacturing Conclave here on Friday,

Automation played a pivotal role in the success of the manufacturing sector, but its adoption in India remained low and required immediate attention, said S Devarajan, president, BCIC & senior vice-president, TVS Motor Company.

"It is imperative to address this issue urgently. A holistic approach encompassing product, process, and sustainability is essential. Efforts should be directed towards enhancing energy efficiency and implementing a circular economy in our processes," he suggested.

Invest Karnataka Conclave-2022 attracted investment worth ₹5,41,369 crore, says M.B. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Invest Karnataka Conclave, the State's investment exploratory exercise, held in 2022 resulted in attracting investment proposals worth ₹5,41,369 crore, said M.B. Patil, Large and Medium Industries Minister, while responding to a query by M. Chandrappa, Holalkere MLA, during the Legislative Assembly session at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Friday.

The Minister also mentioned that the State government had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 57 companies.

Referring to the Hubballi FMCG Conclave, he stated that the event had facilitated MoUs with 16 companies, involving investment proposals worth ₹1,275 crore.

Green hydrogen sector

According to Mr. Patil, the green hydrogen sector accounted for 38%, and the renewable energy sector accounted for 35% of these proposals.

He further said, seven projects proposed during Invest Karnataka Conclave-2022 and three proposed at Hubballi FMCG Conclave have been approved by the State-Level Single Window Agency (SLSWA).

Jobs for Kannadaigas

According to regulations, industries receiving government incentives should ensure 100% employment for Kannadigas in 'D' category jobs and 70% employment in all job categories, he clarified.

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A star of 1960s who paved the way for many women to follow

K. Puttaswamy
BENGALURU

Leelavathi, who passed away on Friday, was the first successful heroine in Kannada cinema in the 1960s. Her emergence in the Kannada film industry was followed by a rise of female talent, including the likes of Bharathi, Kalpana, Jayanthi, and Chandrakala.

Following a strong stint in theatre under the guidance of Subbaiah Naidu and Mahalinga Bhagavatar, Leelavathi forayed into films and carved a memorable career.

High point of career

Her screen chemistry with thespian Dr Rajkumar is one of the high points in the history of Kannada cinema. She was first noticed for her portrayal of a tragic heroine in the historical *Ranadheera Kanteerava* (1960) opposite Dr. Rajkumar. Her performance in the romantic-comedy *Rani Honnamma* (1960) won her praise. Interestingly, of the 23 Kannada films that released in 1963, 11 movies featured Dr. Rajkumar and Leelavathi in lead roles. Leelavathi was a versatile performer. If she

(Clockwise from top left) Leelavathi with director Puttanna Kanagal and actor Bharathi; with Dr. Rajkumar in *Bhakta Kumbara*; with her son Vinod Raj at an event, and with Vishnuvardhan in *Naagrahaavu*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LEELAVATHI (1937 - 2023)

played a destitute in *Kulavadhu*, the actor essayed the role of a dejected lover in *Valmiki*. In *Veera Kesari*, she was seen as a hot-headed princess. She was blessed with the personality and talent to play a daughter to Dr. Rajkumar in *Boodaana* (1962), sister to the matinee idol in *Vatsalya* (1965), and sister-in-law to the actor in *Premamayi* (1966).

Her shift to a character artist was a successful one as well. She stood out for her intense characters with different shades in Puttanna Kanagal films such as *Gejje Pooje* (1969), *Naagarahaavu* (1972), *Sharapanjara* (1972), *Bili Hendti* (1975), and *College Ranga* (1976). She was known for her histrionics on screen. It was one of the popular styles of acting back then.

Leelavathi was gifted with a fine comic timing, as seen in *Naa Mechida Huduga* (1972). She even starred opposite well-known comedian Narasimharaju in *Professor Huchuraya* (1974). In the prime of her career, she played the role of a strong-willed woman who would hold her family together. Though she managed to strike a great chemistry with Dr Rajkumar, Leelavathi couldn't form a formidable on-screen magic with the likes of Udaya Kumar and Kalyan Kumar, the other two of the famous Kumar triumvarate.

After she proved her mettle in genres such as historical, devotional, and folklore, Leelavathi was typecast as a suffering mother in the later part of her glowing career.

Her prominent works in Tamil include K. Balachander's *Aval Oru Thodar Kathai* with Kamal Haasan (1974) and *Avargal* (1977) with Rajinikanth. She also starred in the Telugu film *Marmayogi* (1964), in which N.T. Rama Rao played the lead role.

(As told to Vivek M.V.)

The writer is a Kannada film historian and author of the award-winning book 'Cinema Yana'.

Exemplary humanitarian

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leelavathi was known for her philanthropic work. In September 2022, she built a primary health centre at Ramapura, Soladevanahalli village of Nelamangala. She and her son Vinod Raj had a farm in the area.

The actor aimed to help people in the rural pockets here.

The hospital, with amenities and laboratory equipment, was built at a cost of around ₹1.2 crore. Leelavathi and Vinod Raj built the hospital with the intention of helping the residents of around 15 to 20 villages.

> Leelavathi will be remembered not only for her acting, but also for her humanitarian work. She was not a wealthy woman. But she built a hospital and also a shelter for animals.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister

> I visited her 10 days ago to enquire about her health. I had tried to talk to her but her health had deteriorated. I had a chat with Vinod Raj and promised him complete support.
>
> **SHIVARAJKUMAR,** Actor

> This is an irreparable loss to the cinema industry. Leelavathi acted in more than 600 films. I got a chance to act in *Kathanayaka* with her.
>
> **SUMALATHA AMBAREESH,** Actor and politician

> Not only as heroine, Leelavathi also brought life to supporting characters and left footprints on the silver screen.
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY,** JD(S) leader

> It is a sad news for the entire State. Let us pray that this great soul rests in peace.
>
> **DARSHAN THOOGUDEEPA,** Actor

INBRIEF

Govt. considering 'B' khata-like system for semi-legal properties

The State government is considering a proposal to introduce 'B' khata-like system for semi-legal properties in the limits of urban local bodies across the State, Minister for Municipal Administration Rahim Khan informed the Legislative Assembly. Responding to a question from Bhimanna Naik, Congress MLA from Sirsi, on the inconvenience caused to the public due to non-issue of Form No. 3, Mr. Khan said the government had constituted a Cabinet sub-committee comprising Minister for Forest Eshwar Khandre, Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda, and Minister for Law H.K. Patil.

Contractors' bills: Yatnal accuses Cong. of corruption

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil's allegation of corruption against the Congress government in the Legislative Assembly sparked a row with the ruling party members taking serious exception to the charges. Mr. Patil said the government had failed to clear pending bills of contractors, who had carried out works in Public Works, Rural Development, and Minor Irrigation Departments. The woes of the contractors had been worsened by the receipt of notices for payment of GST and several contractors had been driven to suicide, he claimed. Further, Mr. Yatnal alleged that the government was discriminating against Karnataka's contractors by clearing the bills of those from other States.

Govt. to consider proposal to carry out cloud seeding

The State is witnessing severe drought with the failure of the south-east monsoon

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government will consider a proposal to carry out cloud seeding in the State in the wake of forecast of cloudy weather conditions over the next three to four days, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar assured the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Prakash Koliwad, Congress MLA from Ranebennur in Haveri district, raised the issue during Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly. Mr Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said he was 'positive' about carrying out cloud seeding, but will have to discuss the technical details, including tender procedures, with officials.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with his ministerial colleagues in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He acknowledged that previous experiments with cloud seeding in different parts of Karnataka had yielded positive results, and the government is inclined to consider such a proposal again for the benefit of the State's farmers.

"Though the expenditure on cloud seeding is not much, we will have to follow a suitable process to avoid complaints of nepotism from the Opposition," the Deputy CM said.

Karnataka is passing through a severe drought with the failure of the south-east monsoon. The government had declared a drought in 220 out of the 236 taluks in the State.

Mr. Koliwad said the prediction of cloudy weather was for the next three to four days, and the opportunity to take up cloud seeding will be lost if a decision is not taken at the earliest.

On hearing the response from the Deputy CM about the decision-making process, the MLA offered to take up cloud seeding at his own cost if the government is facing hurdles in taking a decision. "If the government cannot carry out cloud seeding, please get me the necessary permission from the Chief Secretary. I will carry it out," the MLA said.

The Ranebennur MLA's demand was supported by Congress MLA from Navalgund Kona Reddy, who recalled that the State Government had conducted cloud seeding when H.K. Patil served as Minister for Irrigation, and got good results.

BYV in Delhi; may discuss appointments to key posts

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Hope is up in the BJP camp over appointment of legislators to various posts, with State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra expected to meet senior party leaders in Delhi over the weekend.

Party sources said that Mr. Vijayendra, accompanied by general secretary (organisation) Rajesh, are likely to meet party president J.P. Nadda to discuss appointments, and are hopeful that an announcement would be made in the next couple of days. Though they are expected to meet Home Minister Amit Shah, they are yet to get appointment from his office, sources said.

While Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip positions in the Legislative Assembly are to be filled, the party has to appoint Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip in the Legislative Council. Sources said they are hopeful that these appointments could be made before the legislative party meeting here next week. The appointments are necessary to soothe the feelings of disgruntled legislators, who have aired their opinion after former Minister R. Ashok was appointed Leader of the Opposition, sources said.

The north-south divide has been brought into the narrative with senior member Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Arvind Bellad, among those believed to be unhappy for ignoring their claims based on caste and regional equations, airing their voices.

The party, according to sources, can accommodate a North Karnataka leader representing backward classes as Leader of the Opposition in the Council. Among the aspirants for the posts are Raghunath Rao Malkhapure, Sunil Vallyapure, Kota Srinivas Poojary, and N. Ravikumar.

Sources said Mr. Bellad is eyeing the post of Deputy Leader of Opposition post in the Assembly.

Ashok acknowledges lack of communication

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A day after lack of coordination among the BJP legislators on the Floor of the House came to the fore, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok acknowledged that problems in communicating to his party leaders had led to the situation.

"The decision to walk out was taken as Basanagouda Patil R. Yatnal felt that time has been lost since Wednesday and a dharna would further take away time. In case the dharna continued on Friday, there would have been no time to discuss the North Karnataka issues. It was on his advise that we decided to walk out and the decision was jointly taken by Mr. Yatnal, S. Suresh Kumar, Araga Jnanendra, C.N. Ashwath Narayan, and B.Y. Vijayendra," Mr. Ashok told presspersons here.

On Thursday, the BJP was left red-faced as some seniors walked out of the house and many junior legislators stayed back to stage dharna after disagreeing with the response of Home Minister G. Parameshwara over the alleged attack on BJP worker in Belagavi recently.

He said: "We decided to walk out as the Congress has been accusing us of not allowing the discussion on North Karnataka in the House. The decision was not communicated, which resulted in lack of coordination. We will set it right."

Coming to his rescue, Mr. Yatnal said that the legislators have to listen to the instructions of the Leader of the Opposition.

Meanwhile, lapping up the opportunity to attack the BJP, several Congress Ministers, including Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, pointed out at the chinks within the BJP over the recent appointments.

Event to mark 25 years of State being named Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A cultural extravaganza has been organised on the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha premises on December 12 to mark the golden jubilee of the renaming of the State.

Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader told presspersons on Friday that Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and former Speakers and chairpersons of the Legislative Council have been invited to take part, besides Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Cabinet Ministers, and legislators. The two-hour cultural event will be performed by about 350 artists from Alvas Nudisiri.

Meanwhile, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said they had discussed the issue of holding joint legislature session and Governor's address in Belagavi. "I hope that from next year, the joint session will be held at Belagavi," he said, adding in future that even the Budget session could be held here.

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horati and Speaker U.T. Khader addressing the media in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

Both Mr. Khader and Mr. Horatti said they would travel to Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh where legislative sessions are held at two places like Karnataka to study the model and suggest improvements here. Mr. Horatti felt there was a need for legislators' homes and official quarters as about ₹5 crore was being spent on providing accommodation annually.

When asked if he had received any petition regarding the portrait of Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar in the Legislative Assembly hall, Mr. Khader said he had not received any. When his attention was drawn towards Ministers making statements on the issue, the Speaker said: "Ministers and legislators should spend time debating and discussing to bring good policy to people. They should attend the House proceedings by coming on time. People should work as per responsibilities."

Yatnal frustrated over not being made State BJP president or Leader of Opposition, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday that BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal was targeting him for sharing dais with Maulvi Tanveer Hashmi at a conference in Hubballi on December 4 out of anger and frustration for not being made the BJP president of Karnataka or the Leader of the Opposition.

Event at Hubballi

Commenting over the Chief Minister inaugurating 'Aluad-E-Gouse-E-Azam' conference on the outskirts of Hubballi on Monday, Mr. Yatnal had alleged that Mr. Hashmi was an "ISIS supporter and terrorist sympathiser."

The Chief Minister wrote on X that Mr. Yatnal appears to have made these allegations with the actual intent of "taking revenge against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah."

Putting up some pictures of Mr. Hashmi with BJP leaders, he further said: "Despite Mr. Yatnal using a photo of me with Mr. Hashmi to levy accusations against me, it is slowly becoming evident that his real target is Prime Minister @narendramodi. It is suggested by photographs shared in the media that not only other BJP leaders but Mr. Modi too may have connections with Mr. Hashmi. It looks unlikely that Mr. Yatnal, who has been a close associate of Mr. Hashmi for a long time and a neighbour in the locality, was unaware of this."

Earlier comments

Referring to the earlier comments of Mr. Yatnal over former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and other BJP leaders, Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote: "...What power lies behind Mr. Yatnal's ability to openly make accusations against senior leaders of his own party?"

Business ties

Mr. Siddaramaiah further said: "According to newspaper reports, it has been revealed that Mr. Yatnal has business ties with the family of Mr. Hashmi. If, as Mr. Yatnal alleges, Mr. Hashmi has connections with ISIS, then didn't Mr. Yatnal, being a business partner with Mr. Hashmi, know about it?"

Veteran CPI leader Kanam Rajendran passes away

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

CPI Kerala State secretary Kanam Rajendran passed away following a sudden cardiac arrest at a private hospital in Kochi on Friday at 5.30 p.m. He was 73.

He was admitted to the hospital on October 25 with multiple ailments, including an unhealed wound on his leg. Since then his left foot had to be amputated owing to infection after the wound remained unhealed due to diabetes. According to hospital sources, he also had cardiac issues. He was on a recovery path when he suffered a cardiac arrest on Friday evening following which he was rushed into the critical care unit. He was declared dead at 5.30 p.m.

Rajendran was serving as the CPI secretary since 2015 following the demise of C.K. Chandrappan.

KANAM RAJENDRAN
1950-2023

Loss to party

"Our differences were over principles and stances but that never really affected our cordial relations," K.E. Ismail, veteran CPI leader, who was said to have had a long-standing rivalry with Mr. Rajendran in the party, told *The Hindu*. "We worked together for 60 years in many capacities including as legislators and in the party national council and executive. I was a stickler for the party's core values," said Mr. Ismail. Rajendran's demise, he said, was a loss to the party as he was well-studied and spoke on issues after doing sufficient legwork.

Ramesh Chennithala, who debuted in the State Assembly in the same year as Rajendran, said the friendship he struck with the latter during their days of student politics never faded. Rajendran never hesitated to speak his mind, he said.

Pillar of Left unity

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan called Rajendran a strong pillar of Left unity who played an unparalleled role in strengthening the unity of the working class and in safeguarding democratic institutions and secular values.

As someone who worked closely as a friend and comrade for closer ties between the CPI and the CPI(M), it was even more tragic that his passing came at a time when there was a need for all secular and democratic forces to stay together, Mr. Vijayan said.

The death was condoled by CPI national general secretary D. Raja, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Kerala's Opposition leader V.D. Satheesan.

The funeral will be held at Rajendran's Kanam household in Kottayam at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Bihar, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	38	23.4	19.0	Kozhikode	—	34.1	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	28.4	17.8	Kurnool	—	31.4	21.1
Aizawl	77	26.2	17.0	Lucknow	—	26.2	15.3
Allahabad	1	26.0	14.6	Madurai	—	33.2	25.1
Bengaluru	—	27.6	21.1	Mangaluru	—	32.8	23.6
Bhopal	—	25.8	15.6	Mumbai	—	32.9	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	25.3	19.5	Mysuru	—	32.1	23.0
Chandigarh	—	24.7	10.4	New Delhi	—	25.7	9.4
Chennai	2	30.2	24.6	Patna	7	21.3	15.8
Coimbatore	2	30.2	22.8	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.1
Dehradun	—	25.9	8.2	Puducherry	—	31.8	25.1
Gangtok	6	15.6	9.1	Pune	—	29.6	16.0
Goa	—	33.2	22.8	Raipur	—	29.6	18.1
Guwahati	5.3	25.4	17.5	Ranchi	15	22.0	15.5
Hubballi	—	32.0	22.0	Shillong	39	14.5	9.6
Hyderabad	—	29.8	17.0	Shimla	—	18.1	8.0
Imphal	38.5	23.4	14.8	Srinagar	—	11.6	-2.4
Jaipur	—	25.8	12.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	25.6
Kochi	—	32.6	25.2	Tiruchi	2	33.5	25.4
Kohima	27	16.3	7.2	Vijayawada	—	30.9	20.6
Kolkata	34	23.0	19.0	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	9	29	101	112	
Bengaluru	4	31	55	76	147	
Chennai	—	38	51	57	59	
Delhi	8	116	101	351	337	
Hyderabad	27	21	30	56	80	
Kolkata	5	4	57	23	34	
Lucknow	9	42	68	158	126	
Mumbai	9	60	28	218	144	
Pune	126	203	110	219	128	
Visakhapatnam	12	45	36	77	94	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 360 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Ex-CM Chandrashekhar Rao hospitalised with hip injury

Former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao suffered a hip fracture reportedly after he slipped in the bathroom of his farmhouse in Erravelli, in the periphery of Hyderabad, late on Thursday night. He was admitted to Yashoda Hospitals in Somajiguda early on Friday, and his condition was stable. After investigations, the doctors found that he suffered a hairline fracture and needs to undergo a surgery. The former CM had been staying at the farmhouse after his party was defeated in the recently concluded Telangana Assembly elections. He vacated the Pragati Bhavan (now Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan) on the day of results and met MLAs and other party leaders at the farmhouse. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed the Health secretary to continue to monitor the treatment of Mr. Rao.

Hadiya's father moves HC seeking to find his daughter

The father of Akhila, alias Hadiya, who got converted to Islam and married a Muslim and was later allowed by the Supreme Court to go with her husband, has filed a habeas corpus petition before the Kerala High Court seeking a directive to the police to produce his daughter before the court. The Supreme Court had in 2018 allowed Hadiya to live with her husband Shafin Jahan. The father alleged that harm could be caused to his daughter by persons who were members of the outlawed Popular Front of India.

SC posts A.P. govt.'s petition against bail to Naidu to Jan. 19

The Supreme Court on Friday posted the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the State government challenging the bail granted by the Andhra Pradesh High Court to former CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu in the alleged skill scam case for further hearing on January 19. A Bench directed Mr. Naidu's counsel to file their counter to the SLP on or before January 19. The A.P. government, on behalf of the CID, had filed the SLP on November 21 challenging the HC's order, seeking to cancel the bail granted to Mr. Naidu.

Michaung followed path of five similar weather systems

Cyclonic disturbances in 1976, 1982, 1984, 1996 and 2005 brought intense downpour leaving Chennai flooded with both the Cooum and Adyar, major rivers traversing the city, in spate

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

Five weather systems in the Bay of Bengal had paths similar to the recent Cyclone Michaung since 1971, bringing with it heavy rainfall over Chennai.

November 1976 and June 1996 were among those years when Chennai received similar downpour. Y.E.A. Raj, former deputy director general of meteorology, Chennai, said a depression in 1976 scraped both Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh coasts and then recurved. The weather system dumped 45.2 cm of rainfall in Nungambakkam and 35 cm of rains in Meenambakkam. It is still an all-time record high rainfall in November.

Great escape: TNDRF volunteers rescuing people from a flooded road in South Chennai to safer zones. R. RAVINDRAN

Similarly, a cyclonic storm in June 1996 had brought a heavy rain spell of 11 cm on June 13 and 35 cm on June 14. The storm had passed close to Chennai, dumped rains and moved to A.P. The other weather systems in October 1982, November 1984 and October 2005 too brought downpour with similar tracks travelling close to the T.N. coast. In 2005, heavy rains lashed the city between October 23 and October 28.

"We cannot describe the recent rain spell as unprecedented as we have had heavy rainfall episodes in the past too. There was flooding in Chennai during years like 1985 and 1997. Boats were involved in rescuing residents during one or two years and Adyar river was flooded," he said.

The 200 cm benchmark of Chennai's annual rainfall has been frequently breached in the past three decades. There have been seven such years when the annual rainfall exceeded 200 cm in the city. Chennai's average annual rainfall has increased in recent years.

Heavy rains in areas like Avadi and Poonamallee brought heavy flow in Cooum river this week.

Cong. fulfills promise of free bus rides to Telangana women

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana government has issued guidelines for the implementation of Maha Lakshmi scheme, the first of the six guarantees, aimed at providing free travel to women in TSRTC buses.

The guidelines come in less than 24 hours of the decision taken by the State Cabinet regarding the implementation of the six guarantees it had given in the run-up to the Telangana Assembly elections. Accordingly, the scheme will be made applicable to girls and women and transgender persons who are domicile of Telangana.

These sections can travel free of cost anywhere within the borders of the State in Palle Velugu and Express buses with effect from Saturday, coinciding with senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's birthday. As for travel in inter-State buses, free travel facility would be applicable up to the borders of the State. The government would reimburse TSRTC the chargeable fares which would have been collected on the basis of actual distance travelled bywomen passengers.

The corporation had also been asked to make arrangements to develop a software based Maha Lakshmi smart card.

Kerala Governor, CPI(M) battle over plea on financial emergency in State

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] appeared poised to battle each other over a politically contentious petition seeking the Presidential imposition of a financial emergency in the State under Article 360(1) of the Constitution.

Mr. Khan hit a raw nerve by forwarding the plea authored by social activist R.S. Sasikumar to the government for comments. Mr. Sasikumar had sought the President's intervention to "save Kerala from irredeemable financial instability precipitated by the State government's reckless borrowing, lax tax administration, and unpardonable profligacy".

Arif Mohammed Khan

Mr. Khan confirmed he had sought a report from the government on the State's fiscal health. "Let the report come," he told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram.

The Governor's move comes when the political wrangling over Kerala's finances has reached an apogee. The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have held the government responsible for the State's "poor finances". The government countered the campaign by accusing the Central government of imposing a politically motivated financial embargo on Kerala to choke the State's development.

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan took strong exception to Mr. Khan's alleged bid to hold the State to ransom "by threatening to misuse his power to advocate for the declaration of a state of financial emergency in Kerala".

Mr. Govindan accused Mr. Khan of threatening to employ a rarely used constitutional provision to give political cover to the Centre, which he accused of attempting to run Kerala to financial ruin. He argued that Mr. Khan had no case against the government by pointing out that Kerala's "own revenue" leapt from ₹58,300 crore in March 2022 to a whopping ₹71,900 crore in March 2023. However, he alleged, the State lost ₹64,000 crore due to the Centre's "obstinate denial of the revenue it owed the State.

He also accused the Congress of playing second fiddle to the BJP in Kerala.

28th edition of international film fest kicks off in Kerala, CM hails 'unwavering political content'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The curtains went up at the capital for the 28th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) on Friday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan addressed the gathering through a recorded video, as the State Cabinet is taking part in the Navakerala Sadas, a mass outreach programme.

"The IFFK stands tall with the biggest festivals across the country in its unwavering political content. The package of films expressing solidarity with Palestine is an example for that. Only a few festivals have expressed such solidarity," he said.

Actor Nana Patekar lighting the lamp to mark the inauguration of 28th IFFK in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. S. MAHINSHA

Mr. Vijayan hailed Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu, the recipient of the Spirit of Cinema Award at the festival this year, for taking on the censorship regime in her country. "Though imperialist forces have left Kenya, the colonial hangover still remains in that soil, evident in the censorship of artists and filmmakers," he said.

Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendran presented the Spirit of Cinema Award for the year to Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu, known for using her cinema as a struggle against the conservative values prevalent in her home country.

'Vessel for stories'

"Cinema is the language of love, of life. Stories were created before us. As filmmakers, our joy is to express these stories. There can never be a film that is banned or censored because the story comes before the filmmakers. These are stories of human experience. My film *Rafiki* may live in exile now, but I know one day it will come home to Kenya. Storytellers in this country and beyond will find a way to be vessel for such stories," said Ms. Kahiu.

Actor Nana Patekar, chief guest of the function, thanked the people of the State for the warmth and love extended to him. "I came here for the first time 32 years ago for a film shooting. Nothing has changed in the socio-political scenario since then. People think more with their heart. I have been part of the film industry for the past 50 years, but till today not a single filmmaker from Kerala has approached me. I think I need to improve," he said.

After the ceremony, the festival's opening film, *Goodbye Julia*, the debut film by Sudanese filmmaker Mohamed Kordofani, was screened to a packed audience.

BJP MLAs-elect unlikely to attend swearing-in today

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Eight newly elected BJP MLAs are unlikely to be sworn in at the Assembly when it meets on Saturday morning. Although a final decision is yet to be taken, the party MLAs-elect do not wish to be sworn in by the pro tem speaker and AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, according to party sources on Friday.

The BJP MLAs-elect are expected to assemble at the State office at 7.30 a.m. on Saturday for a breakfast meeting with party State president and Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region G. Kishan Reddy to finalise the strategy. What is for sure is that the MLAs-elect will first offer prayers at the Bhagyalakshmi Temple at Charminar after the meeting and from there, they will proceed to the Martyr's Memorial in front of the Assembly to pay homage. Whether they will go into the Assembly from there is yet to be known.

Party sources said if the party decides not to attend the inaugural of the maiden Assembly session of the present government, the MLAs-elect will wait for the Speaker to be elected by the Congress for being formally sworn in later.

Senior-most MLA-elect T. Raja Singh, who is tipped to become the legislature party leader, has already gone public about not wanting to be sworn in by Mr. Owaisi. The Goshamahal MLA-elect did the same when he was the lone BJP MLA elected in 2018 when the pro tem speaker was another AIMIM MLA Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, elected from Charminar constituency.

Mr. Raja Singh was the leader when two more party MLAs were elected in the bypolls - M. Raghunandan Rao from Dubbak and former Minister Eatala Rajender from Huzurabad. It was when he was suspended by the party last year for his intemperate comments against the minority community that Mr. Rajender functioned as the leader in the Assembly.

Invidious divide

India can do without politicians exacerbating a north-south polarisation

The remark on North Indian States made by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Member of Parliament S. Senthilkumar in the Lok Sabha, since expunged from the records, was unworthy of a lawmaker. To speak disparagingly of fellow beings for their beliefs, food habits, or cultural practices is nothing short of bigotry. Political preferences vary from region to region in a vast country such as India. There are various imbalances in this vast landscape; for instance, in terms of literacy and education, natural resources, access to trade routes, and demographic composition. These imbalances also reflect in the country's political and economic structures. Some regions are more advanced economically while some others have a higher capacity to influence the political course of the country. Imbalances apart, there is vast diversity in India in terms of religion, language, culture and culinary habits. Nation makers grappled with these challenges of imbalances and diversity, to set in motion the consolidation of the most diverse, and most populated democratic country on the planet. While India has made significant progress in addressing these imbalances and managing the diversity, any honest appraisal would have to account for the unfinished tasks at hand. Regional identities and imbalances are not to be brushed under the carpet or forced into silence, unless the attempt is to create an authoritarian country.

The MP apologised for his unwarranted comments and so did his party. That episode should now be laid to rest. His comments were in the context of the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the three Hindi-speaking States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, while Telangana voted for the Congress, suggesting a divergence between the northern and southern States in political preferences. India has had ruling parties and coalitions of different regional compositions, but the north by virtue of having a larger share of the population has had a bigger say in the country's governance. The suggestion of an invidious north-south divide is baseless and dangerous, while the issue of multiple imbalances is legitimate and real. The States in the south and west are growing faster economically, while those in the north and east are growing faster in population. These trends need to be reconciled in a manner that helps the progress of the country, rather than becoming a source of acrimony. Development outcomes also vary across religious and caste communities in particular regions. There is also a danger that these challenges can accelerate with the impending nation-wide delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies and the growing gaps in development between regions, and communities. These questions of imbalances cannot be left unaddressed. It is essential that these discussions are informed and respectful; and devoid of any prejudice and hostility.

An icy warning

Threats from glaciers should be in same risk category as cyclones and quakes

Few barometers measure the climate crisis as evocatively as the state of glaciers, a key component of the cryosphere. The World Meteorological Organization's recent report, "The Global Climate 2011-2020", gives a broad view of the planet's response to greenhouse gas emissions. In the section on the state of glacier health, it points out that, on average, the world's glaciers thinned by approximately a metre a year from 2011 to 2020. When compared across decades, there is significant regional variability, but the overall pattern remains that glaciers in all regions of the world are becoming smaller. In fact, some of the reference glaciers, which are used to make long-term assessments of glacier health, have already melted away as the nourishing winter snow is completely melting away during summer. In Africa, glaciers on the Rwenzori Mountains and Mount Kenya are projected to disappear by 2030, and those on Kilimanjaro by 2040. The report points to the rapid growth of pro-glacial lakes and the likelihood of glacier lake outburst flood (GLOF), posing additional threats to ecosystems and livelihoods. The reports singled out how "...water from glacial melt contributed to one of the decade's worst flooding disasters, the Uttarakhand floods of June 2013".

The fury of a GLOF event was brought home this year by the destruction of the Chungthang dam in Sikkim after the South Lhonak Lake flooded from a melting glacier, triggering catastrophe downstream. Earlier this year, a separate report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development found that the disappearance of glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas was "65% faster in the 2010s than in the previous decade". At the current rate of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is expected to see temperatures increase by 2.5°-3°C by the end of the century, the volume of glaciers is forecast to decline anywhere from 55% to 75%. This means sharp reductions in freshwater supply in the immediate vicinity of 2050. The sensitivity of glacier systems to warming underlines the need for their careful monitoring. Despite awareness of the risks posed by Himalayan glaciers there is no early warning system for the likelihood of GLOF events. Much like warnings before cyclones, floods and earthquakes, authorities must elevate threats from contracting glaciers to the same category of risk. Correspondingly, there is a need to make comprehensive risk assessments, map regions of vulnerability and commission infrastructure development with the highest standards of care.

India's alarming 'fixed dose combination' problem

Dinesh Thakur

is the co-author of 'The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India' (2022)

Prashant Reddy T.

is the co-author of 'The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India' (2022)

A group of academics from India, Qatar and the United Kingdom recently published a worrying new study in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice* (2023, 16:39) on the volume of unapproved and even banned fixed dose combination (FDC) of antibiotics that are being sold in India. Using sales data of the pharmaceutical industry, the study documents that in the year 2020, 60.5% FDCs of antibiotics (comprising 239 formulations) were unapproved and another 9.9% (comprising 39 formulations) were being sold despite being banned in the country. That so many of these unapproved or banned FDCs contain antibiotics is alarming because of the increasing prevalence of antibacterial microbial resistance (AMR) in India.

FDCs are combinations of one or more known drugs and can be useful in the treatment of some diseases since the combination can improve patient compliance. For instance, if a patient has to take three different medications for a particular treatment, she may forget to take one. But if all three medications are combined into one tablet or one syrup, the chance of her forgetting to take one or two of the drugs is reduced. For diseases such as AIDS, it is well documented that FDCs have proven to be very useful in improving patient compliance, which at the end of day improves treatment outcomes.

Making FDCs, even though most consist of drugs with known safety and efficacy profile, is not an easy job. All drugs have side effects and when formulated together, there is a possibility that the active ingredient or even the excipients (inactive ingredients) may affect the way that each drug functions. For example, the drugs may interact in a way to reduce the therapeutic efficacy of each active ingredient, or, worse, the drugs may interact with each other to create a more toxic element, often called metabolites. This is why it is crucial that all FDCs go through a scientifically designed approval process where such interactions can be evaluated.

The pharmaceutical industry's love for FDCs

Pharmaceutical companies in India use these FDCs to escape liability under multiple laws without much concern for public health. One such law is the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), under which the government fixes the prices of individual drugs. Since drug combinations were traditionally not covered under the DPCO, the pharmaceutical industry decided that making FDCs provided an easy way to escape the remit of the DPCO.

> That many of these unapproved or banned FDCs contain antibiotics is cause for concern given the growing antibacterial microbial resistance in the country

Driven by this cold logic of the market, and not public health, the Indian pharmaceutical industry introduced an astounding variety of FDCs that lacked any medical rationale. For example, anti-inflammatory drugs were combined with vitamins, anti-histamines were combined with anti-diarrhoeal agents, penicillin was combined with sulphonamides, and vitamins were combined with analgesics. These were combinations not found in any other country.

There were two added advantages of adopting this strategy for the industry. The first, the fact that because of the bewildering variety of FDCs being sold in the market, there were no standards set by bodies such as the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission for testing these drugs for quality of manufacture. When there are no standards recognised by the law, there is no question of manufacturing "not of standard quality" drugs, and hence there is no possibility of prosecution under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. At most, when these FDCs are sampled in the market and sent for testing, the usual protocol for government laboratories conducting such tests is to write to the manufacturer and ask for their own protocols to test the drug. In other words, the pharmaceutical industry gets to provide its own standards in order for the government to test their drugs.

The second advantage of going down the FDC route is that it gives individual companies a reason to charge higher prices for their drugs. For example, if 20 different pharmaceutical companies were manufacturing and selling a drug such as azithromycin, they would have to compete furiously and reduce prices to capture a larger share of the market. But if they combine azithromycin with another drug, for example, cefixime to create a FDC, they can claim it as a new unique product catering to a specific need, thereby allowing them to charge a higher price until others introduce similar products, at which point the first mover may try to create a new FDC. When the market and the regulatory structure rewards these manufacturers of such pseudo-innovation rather than for discovering and developing true innovative medicines, this is what happens. These dubious FDCs can command higher prices. Of course, none of this is possible without doctors who are willing to prescribe such FDCs. While it is tempting to paint all such doctors as corrupt, the fact of the matter is that most doctors wrongly presume that the drug regulator is doing its job when a product is sold on the market.

The FDC problem has been on the regulatory radar since 1978 when the first government committee studied the issue and admitted that we had a problem on our hands. At the time, there was no system under the colonial-era Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to vet drugs for safety and efficacy prior to their sale in India. This meant that each State drug controller could hand out manufacturing licences for any drug formulation and there was little that the central government could do to stop their sale.

In 1982, Parliament changed the law to give the central government the power to "prohibit" the manufacture of specific drugs that lack therapeutic value or justification. Later in that decade, in 1988, the central government amended the rules to introduce a new requirement for manufacturers of all "new drugs", including FDCs, to submit proof of safety and efficacy to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) who heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). These amendments also made it clear that State drug controllers could not grant "manufacturing licences" for "new drugs" that are not approved for safety and efficacy by the DCGI.

Unabated licensing

Despite the law being crystal clear on the issue, State drug controllers have simply ignored the law to continue issuing manufacturing licences for FDCs not approved by the DCGI with impunity. The manufacturers selling these FDCs that have not been approved by the DCGI can technically be prosecuted by the Central government for violating the law.

Instead of ordering criminal prosecutions, the Ministry of Health is playing a game of whack-a-mole by constantly invoking its powers under Section 26A to prohibit the manufacture of specific FDCs. It has issued 444 orders under this provision since 1983, banning mostly FDCs. Many of these orders have been embroiled in complex litigation, with the courts muddying the waters with inconsistent decisions.

The fact that these academics have discovered 239 unapproved FDCs being sold in 2020 in just one category of FDCs (their previous studies have revealed similar unapproved FDCs in other therapeutic categories), more than 42 years after the problem was first flagged is an astonishing indictment of the incompetence of the drug regulatory framework in India. As they point out in their paper, unregulated FDCs may end up contributing to the AMR problem in India. It is vital for the Ministry of Health to take immediate action.

Bridge this deficit between India and Sri Lanka

T. Ramakrishnan

The announcement by Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe, recently, about a proposal to establish land connectivity with India has come none too soon. Twenty years ago, in Chennai, Mr. Wickremesinghe, then Prime Minister, while delivering a lecture, floated the idea of building a bridge linking Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu with Talaimanar in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. This was part of his larger vision of regional economic integration, encompassing his country and the southern States of India and aimed at generating more opportunities for economic growth.

He has been discussing the concept of economic integration on many an occasion and at several international fora. But, whenever groups and parties claiming to represent the interests of Sinhalese-Buddhists expressed their opposition to the proposal on the ground that this would not benefit Sri Lanka, the talk of having expanded physical connectivity would die down. In December 2015, when India's Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha that the Asian Development Bank was willing to fund the bridge project of ₹24,000 crore, Sri Lanka's response was muted followed by sharp criticism from the project opponents.

However, to the credit of Mr. Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the idea of land connectivity was not abandoned. It found a mention in a joint statement issued in July after the two leaders met in New Delhi. The document even stated that "a feasibility study for such connectivity will be conducted at an early date." As a follow up, Mr. Wickremesinghe, who is also Finance Minister, in his Budget address on November 13, referred to the project of land connectivity and and said "we expect to utilise Colombo port to meet the supply needs of south west India and Trincomalee port to meet the supply needs of south east India".

The case of a power grid

But, the relationship between the two countries in the area of infrastructure development should have been much deeper than what it is. For example, the idea of connecting the electricity networks of the two countries was floated even in 1970.

> The relationship between India and Sri Lanka in the areas of infrastructure development, energy links and trade should be much deeper than what it is now

Over 13 years have lapsed since the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on the bilateral grid, but not even one unit of electricity has been transmitted. In the case of Bangladesh, India has been exporting at least 7,000 million units (MU) annually for the last couple of years. About a month ago, Mr. Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly commissioned, in virtual mode, the second unit of the Rampal Maitree Power Project (660 megawatt), apart from launching two other infrastructure projects. In fact, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh had inked memoranda of understanding with India in the same year (2010) for collaboration in the power sector.

It is not that no energy projects are being taken up by the former, as there are certain projects underway involving Indian participation in the energy sector, particularly renewable energy. Besides, the island-nation needed time to recover from the protracted civil war of 25 years. Yet, the progress of the transmission network project, envisaging the transfer of 1,000 MW and the establishment of a High Voltage Direct Current overhead link between Madurai (India) and New Habarana (Sri Lanka), does not reflect well on the two countries. Had the facility been in place in 2022, Sri Lanka would not have suffered power cuts and blackouts then. A day may come when India will be able to source cheaper power from Sri Lanka. The two countries should be focused to ensure that the deadline of 2030 is met.

On trade

Energy is not the only area where progress has been tardy. The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was signed in December 1998, yet the two countries have not yet been able to go beyond it despite holding talks for years on entering into an economic and technology cooperation agreement. After a break of five years, negotiations resumed a few weeks ago.

Notwithstanding several constraints, even now, bilateral economic ties seem to be on better footing with India regaining its position last year as the largest source of imports and accounting for about 26% of total imports of Sri Lanka, though certain portions of imports were through credit lines offered by India in the wake of the economic crisis. In the area of tourism, which is a major source of revenue for Sri Lanka, India remained the largest single country of tourist arrivals, with its share being 17% of the overall number of arrivals. But, the potential is much higher and the underperformance of Sri Lanka is telling, going by India's bilateral trade in 2021 with its southern neighbour and Bangladesh, whose recent economic growth has been impressive. The size of the former was $5.45 billion in 2021 whereas that of the latter was $18.14 billion.

A start has been made

Sri Lanka, which has a long track record of the incumbent government ensuring the smooth transition of power to its successor after electoral defeat, should not be bogged down in the baggage of history. The presence of anti-Indian nationalist forces in the political class is nothing unique to this country. Still, Bangladesh has shown the way to have a mutually-beneficial economic relationship.

In fact, with respect to Sri Lanka, the momentum generated by certain developments in the last one year (resumption of air services between Chennai and Jaffna, the launch of passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai and a joint venture agreement among India's National Dairy Development Board, the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation and Cargills of Sri Lanka for self-sufficiency in the dairy sector) should be sustained and improved upon. There is every reason why Sri Lanka, once viewed as a high standard of living and stable economy, should be keen on making this a reality.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Battered city

Chennai-ites endorse the demand made by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin should release a white paper on the ₹4,000 crore storm water drain project.

It was a nightmare during the cyclone, making one wonder whether the amount spent had gone down the drain, so to speak. Ironically, the DMK government has thought it fit to spend a lot of money on organising a Formula 4 race in the city.

The end result is that Chennai-ites are destined to encounter the fury of floods, irrespective of whichever government is at the helm.

Can a new party guarantee a proper drainage system to ensure a relatively flood-free Chennai?

N. Mahadevan,
Chennai

The cyclone ravaged low-lying areas, with dwellings getting inundated and residents being forced to flee. In many instances, people were seen in neck-deep water. Michaung was like a mini-tsunami.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

While ideas fly thick and fast to solve the problems encountered during the cyclone, two insurmountable problems need to be addressed. First, the clogging of drains cannot be avoided as long as citizens continue to dump waste in the trenches through the gaping uncovered holes. Second, mushrooming construction in low-lying areas (waterbodies) especially in the outskirts needs a check. The lesson is that none will invest in properties that are prone to inundation.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Task before INDIA bloc

The results of the Assembly elections in three northern States also remind one of the same patterns of results that emerged in the 2019 general election.

It is time the Opposition leaders looked at the continuously unexpected surprise victories of the Bharatiya Janata Party, found out the real reason and took appropriate action. All the Opposition parties should join hands by burying their ego fathoms deep, be prepared for sacrifices and stand as one. The Congress party should shed its big brother attitude.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

People walk in waist deep water layered with oil on Manali High Road, Tiruvottiyur, in north Chennai after Cyclone Michaung wreaked havoc in the city. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

A city under water

Over December 3-4, Cyclone Michaung lingered about 100 km off the coast of Chennai for about 16 hours. It caused torrential rains that pummelled the city, bringing life to an abrupt halt. **K. Lakshmi** reports on the woes of the people and the urgent need for the beleaguered coastal metropolis to be prepared for such disasters

On the gloomy morning of December 4, B. Jagadesan, 26, a resident of Pulianthope, a densely populated area in north Chennai in Tamil Nadu, grew increasingly alarmed. As sheets of rain pummelled the city, the water level in his neighbourhood rose rapidly. By noon, it had reached his waist, he recalls. And by the evening, Pulianthope looked like an island. "There was water up to the chest in some parts. And it was up to the neck in Pattalam (an adjoining area)," he says.

The next morning, there was an eerie calm after the storm. Cyclone Michaung, which had caused torrential rains from the night of December 3, had moved northwards. Jagadesan and his friends stepped out of their houses and waded through the murky water to reach Choolai, about 1.5 km away, to buy essential products.

"What was shocking was that half-a-litre milk packets that were brought in rickshaws to our area by some dealers cost ₹70 a packet, and then ₹100 the next day, three times the normal price," he says. They had no choice but to buy the milk.

When Jagadesan and his friends surveyed parts of Pulianthope on that day and the next, the sun shone weakly in a dull grey sky. But the water had not receded. And there was still no help in sight. Jagadesan blames the faulty storm water drains and is upset with the State government. "No authority or elected representative has come to help us," he says.

The people of Chennai are no strangers to waterlogged roads during the north-east monsoon every year. But the rains of December 3-4 wreaked widespread havoc in the city. Chennai's Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam observatories recorded a staggering 46.8 cm of rain and 43.8 cm of rain, respectively, between December 3 and December 4 night.

The floods triggered by the cyclone claimed the lives of 17 people, left thousands stranded in water-logged areas, affected daily supplies, and uprooted numerous trees. The airport was shut for a day, trains were cancelled, and educational institutions were closed from December 4 to 8.

While the cyclone posed a daunting challenge for the authorities and the city's strained infrastructure, it revived harrowing memories of a similar deluge in December 2015 for the residents.

In Andhra Pradesh, the severe cyclonic storm weakened into a cyclonic storm before making a landfall at Kavali close to Bapatla. It claimed three lives and left a trail of destruction behind, mostly damaging acres and acres of crops.

When localities turned into islands

On December 4, K. Perumal, 50, and his family, who live in Kolathur in the north-western region of Chennai, were short of drinking water.

"We had very little water in our overhead tank. There was no electricity, so it could not be refilled. None of us took a bath for three days. We also drank very little water as we didn't want to use the bathroom. We went in search of packaged drinking water the next day. There were long queues outside the shops. After hours of riding around the neighbourhood and wading through waterlogged streets, I got a 20-litre bubble top water dispenser for ₹100 when it is usually sold for ₹30," says Perumal, a bank employee.

In many areas, the lack of power supply and disruption of Internet services compounded woes. Anita Gupta, an entrepreneur who lives in MKB Nagar in north Chennai, says she and her family could not communicate with anyone as their phone batteries had died. "To make matters worse, there were swarms of mosquitoes. We used camphor to ward them off," she says.

> Before the rains this time, the Chief Minister had called for road levelling and repair work. This was not done. Our roads are all damaged.
>
> **SNEHA V.**
> Resident
> Pallikaranai

Anita's family had been complaining for some time about silted storm water drains and mounds of garbage, but the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), the civic body, did not respond, she says.

Given the grim situation, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 5, seeking ₹5,060 crore as interim relief. The State government appointed teams of bureaucrats to coordinate relief operations with elected representatives. The GCC set up 162 relief centres and distributed food to 37.64 lakh people. The Union government released its share of ₹450 crore to the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Relief Fund and another ₹500 crore for a flood mitigation project for Chennai.

As areas across the city, such as Pallikaranai, Varadharajapuram, Pulianthope, Vyasarpadi, Korukkupet, Ambattur, Koyambedu, and Korattur, were badly affected, teams of the Indian Army and the National Disaster Response Force swung into action to rescue residents by boat. The GCC also coordinated rescue efforts and sent 240 boats to water-logged areas. The Indian Air Force along with the State government air-dropped relief material in eight locations each in south and north Chennai on December 6.

Despite these efforts, the situation was "chaotic," says Sneha V., 40, who lives in the Purvankata Township in Pallikaranai area. "It was not so bad in 2015," she says. "Before the rains this time, the Chief Minister had called for road levelling and repairs, which were not done. Our roads are all damaged. We demand accountability from contractors for this."

In Velachery, which is home to several malls and upscale stores, the breach of the Velachery and Adambakkam lakes led to severe flooding, say residents. They were forced to wade through ankle-deep rainwater mixed with sewage.

Residents of Puzhal in north Chennai say several localities remain under 4 feet of water (over 1 metre). Benni Charles, 64, a resident of the area, says, "Flooding in Puzhal and Manali took place when a huge amount of water was discharged from the Red Hills reservoir. I don't remember areas being under water for such a long period of time, at least since the 1980s."

The name of the cyclone – Michaung – was proposed by Myanmar and signifies resilience and hope. And there have been many tales of hope amid all the gloom. With the government absent in some places, it was volunteers who came forward to help senior citizens, pregnant woman, stranded families, and animals.

Mehrunissa Tariq, 35, a marketing professional who lives in Pannaiyur in south Chennai and who is pregnant, says her house, which is close to an embankment, was surrounded by water. She says the government had arranged for her family to be evacuated. But even before that, strangers evacuated her by boat. "My family and friends got some people to help us and they waded through 4 feet of water just to evacuate us," she says. "People can be so kind."

Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force personnel help a woman. R. RAVINDRAN

Making landfall

When it became clear that Cylone Michaung would make landfall in Andhra Pradesh, the State government opened 9,000 shelter camps and shifted thousands of people by December 4 evening. The cyclone finally made landfall close to a small village called Perali, about 12 km to the south of Bapatla town in Bapatla district. By then it had devastated areas in the districts of Nellore, Tirupati, Guntur, Bapatla, East Godavari, and West Godavari. The temple town of Tirupati remained cut off for almost two days, as the Kalangi river flowed over the Kolkata-Chennai national highway near Sullurupeta. Thousands of pilgrims were stranded.

Farmers and some fisherfolk have borne the brunt of the storm. Appanna, a farmer who owns 2 acres of land near Narsapuram in West Godavari, had sown paddy in August, hoping to harvest it in December. He invested around ₹50,000 per acre and was hoping to make about ₹3 lakh. But the rain inundated his fields. "I don't know the extent of damage as the crop has been flattened and is under a sheet of water. I don't think I will get back what I had invested," he says.

The tenant farmers of Bapatla are in dire straits. Satyanarayana had taken 4 acres of land on rent for ₹2 lakh. "I had invested another ₹1.5 lakh for buying seeds and other materials. My entire crop is damaged," he says in tears.

> The crop has been flattened on my 2 acres of land and is under water. I don't think I will get back what I had invested (₹50,000 per acre)
>
> **APPANNA**
> Farmer
> West Godavari

Primary estimations in Bapatla alone show that 70,000 hectares of standing crops have been inundated. The highest damage has been to paddy, followed by other commercial, horticultural, and vegetable crops. Farmers growing crops such as banana, chilli, tobacco, and vegetables have also been badly hit.

Paddy farmers met Ponnur MLA Kilari Venkata Roshaiah at Pachalatadiparru village and urged the government to procure the discoloured paddy and save them losses. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed officials to pay compensation and procure all the paddy, including a part of the damaged crop, through the Rythu Bharosa Kendra. The government has provided ₹2,500 for each of the families in the shelter homes. Meanwhile, the authorities in the affected districts are using high-power pumps to drain water from the fields. They have engaged earth movers to desilt the canals and drains.

A comparison with 2015

In Chennai, meanwhile, people are comparing the situation with 2015, when catastrophic floods had led to the deaths of 199 people and caused extensive damage to property.

S. Balachandran, additional director general of meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, says the cumulative rainfall between December 1 and December 5 this year was 45% more than what it was in December 2015 in Nungambakkam. The city received 58 cm of rainfall in 2023 compared to 40 cm in 2015. The cyclone stayed within a 100 km radius of the city, close to the coast for 16 hours. It also moved at a speed of 8-10 kmph. This led to widespread and heavy spells of rainfall, he says.

"The India Meteorological Department has fine-tuned its forecasts by revamping its network of radars and adding new observational infrastructure and radars. It has also improved its weather models. The network to disseminate weather information has also improved since 2015," adds Balachandran.

However, experts and meteorologists say that heavy rainfall alone cannot be the sole reason for such widespread and prolonged flooding.

Y.E.A. Raj, retired deputy director-general of meteorology, Chennai, says, "We had heavy rainfall before 2015 too. In November 25, 1976, there was 45 cm of rainfall in Nungambakkam and 35 cm in Meenambakkam. The cumulative rainfall between November 11 and November 13, 1985, was 73 cm. Chennai saw floods on both those occasions, so we cannot call these rains 'unprecedented'".

Climate Trends, a research-based consulting and capacity-building initiative, notes that the frequency and intensity of cyclones has also increased in the north Indian Ocean of late. Ocean warming has altered the sea surface temperature. This, it says, has led to heavy rainfall covering a greater distance of more than 300 km around the cyclone centre.

Following the calamity of 2015, the State government had executed various flood mitigation projects following interim reports of the advisory panel for flood mitigation and management headed by former Indian Administrative Service officer V. Thiruppugazh. However, only portions of the projects yielded results. For instance, the region around the Porur lake got flooded this time as the second phase of the flood mitigation project is still to be completed. Improvements to more channels have not been taken up yet by the Water Resources Department.

The GCC identified flood-prone zones in its City Disaster Management Perspective Plan 2023 and also undertook an integrated storm water drains project for a length of 1,069.40 km in three basins. Work is yet to be completed in some areas that were merged with Chennai in 2012. The government also began restoring 210 water bodies in Chennai. So far, 172 have been restored.

Responding to criticism about the storm water drains, J. Radhakrishnan, additional chief secretary and commissioner of GCC, says, "The storm water drains can withstand rains of roughly 10 cm spread over 48-72 hours and not incessant 50 cm of rainfall. Also, for the rainwater collected from 35,000 streets, there are only four outlets. If not for this infrastructure, 70-75% of the water across the city would not have drained."

He says the City Disaster Management Perspective Plan mentions that there are very low-lying areas that are historic settlements close to water bodies. "Naturally, water percolates through these areas. Drains can handle normal showers. During high tide and disaster-level rains, these areas become 'receptacles'. Pallikaranai and Madipakkam could be getting flooded because of overwash (spillovers) from the Pallikaranai and Narayanapuram lakes or breaches from other areas. These can be checked once the rains subside," says Radhakrishnan.

With more flood years expected, experts say the government should adopt a systematic flood control management strategy and an integrated drainage system, improve macro drains, and retrieve spaces that have been encroached on.

M. Karmegam, former director, Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, says a chain of 16 water bodies in the Vyasarpadi belt has vanished. Lakes in Velachery and Adambakkam have only 30% of their original water spread area. Other water bodies in the Korattur, Ambattur, Retteri and Pallikaranai marshlands too have shrunk in space. "If floods are to be prevented, these water bodies must be rejuvenated and declared as protected zones," he says.

While the government prepares to tackle such disasters, citizens wonder why some areas are being neglected. J. Vivekanandan, a resident of Mullai Nagar in north Chennai, says, "Our homes were inundated but our area was ignored. When the State government deployed boats to rescue people in Velachery, why were we left out?"

With inputs from R. Aishwaryaa and Serena Josephine M. in Chennai and from the Andhra Pradesh Bureau

From Page One

Mahua Moitra expelled, Opposition walks out

The proceedings, which went on for a little over an hour in the post-lunch session, saw some sharp exchanges between the Opposition and Treasury benches. Opposition members asked why the ethics panel headed by BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar didn't examine Mr. Hiranandani or allow Ms. Moitra to cross-examine him. BJP MPs argued that she was given a chance by the panel to explain her conduct.

The Lok Sabha also witnessed two brief adjournments including one soon after the Ethics Report was tabled on the floor of the House at noon. Before the proceedings resumed at 2 p.m., Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote an urgent letter to Speaker Om Birla to give MPs three to four days so that they could read the report that runs into hundreds of pages and prepare their response.

"Can anyone humanly read the report within two hours?" Mr. Chowdhury asked when the House reassembled and argued that the principle of natural justice demands that Ms. Moitra be heard. Mr. Birla observed that in 2005, then Speaker Somnath Chatterjee had disallowed 10 Lok Sabha Members who were involved in a "cash for question scam", to speak. Mr. Joshi added that the then Leader of the House Pranab Mukherjee had moved a motion to expel the 10 members on the same day the report was introduced.

RBI keeps repo rate at 6.5%, growth forecast up

Governor Das stressed that the idea was not just to achieve 4% inflation but to maintain it at that level on a durable basis and it is not possible to provide a "forward guidance" in the current scenario when there is excessive uncertainty. The "future looks fickle and new shocks can hit any economy at any time".

"We expect the Central bank to maintain a prolonged pause on monetary policy rate until August 2024 and opt for a pivot thereafter with visibility on the durability of the 4% inflation target getting better," QuantEco Research said in a note on Friday's monetary policy statement.

"An increase in some vegetable prices may push consumer price index [CPI] inflation higher in coming months. The crop output of cereals and pulses needs to be monitored and elevated sugar prices in the world are also a matter of concern," he stressed, noting that retail inflation may surge in November and December from the four-month low of 4.87% recorded in October.

The RBI expects inflation to average 5.6% in the current quarter, signalling that the pace of price rise over last month and this month may be close to 6%, its upper tolerance limit for inflation. For the January to March 2024 period, inflation is expected to average 5.2%.

SC rejects plea for probe against Palaniswami

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, for the DVAC, said the order was "absolutely imperfect", and reminded that the top court had shown zero tolerance against corruption in the past. He urged the court to issue notice.

Senior advocate C. A. Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa, for Mr. Palaniswami, said the fresh inquiry was motivated by political rivalry. "The government has changed," Mr. Sundaram said.

Justice Trivedi said the High Court had found a fresh inquiry in July 2023 unnecessary as the DVAC had itself, in 2018, given a clean chit to Mr. Palaniswami.

Mr. Dave argued that "political rivalry" or "change of government" cannot be cited against a fresh inquiry initiated by a subsequent government into corruption allegations against the previous Chief Minister.

"He [Palaniswami] at the time was in charge of the public works, the police and he was also the Chief Minister. The DVAC report at the time was made when he was in charge. Naturally, officers under him would give him a clean chit... The High Court had no business making observations about the change in government...," Mr. Dave submitted. He said the State was entitled to investigate the allegations of corruption. "Who is preventing you from investigating? Whatever is possible under Section 156(3), you can do. We are not preventing you," Justice Trivedi addressed Mr. Dave.

BJP to pick CMs of 3 States over weekend

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was appointed observer for Rajasthan, to be assisted by Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pande and BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde. Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar was appointed central observer for Madhya Pradesh, along with Rajya Sabha MP and BJP's OBC cell in-charge K. Laxman, and national secretary Asha Lakra. For Chhattisgarh, the BJP appointed Union Minister Arjun Munda as observer, along with Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and BJP general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam. In Rajasthan, it has to decide whether to repeat Vasundhara Raje or go with a new face, while in Madhya Pradesh, the party has to choose between Shivraj Singh Chouhan and a new candidate.

Lalduhoma sworn in as Mizoram Chief Minister

Seven Cabinet Ministers and four Ministers of State take oath; CM announces 12 programmes, says his govt. will give priority to farmers, and form panels to monitor development projects

Press Trust of India
AIZAWL

Taking charge: Zoram People's Movement leader Lalduhoma (left) takes oath as the Chief Minister of Mizoram in Aizawl on Friday. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati is also seen. PTI

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram on Friday. Along with Mr. Lalduhoma, 11 others also took oath as State Ministers at a function held at the Raj Bhavan here. Seven of them were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers and four as Ministers of State.

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Lalduhoma and other Ministers.

With a 40-member Assembly, Mizoram can have 12 Ministers, including the Chief Minister.

Mizo National Front (MNF) leader and outgoing Chief Minister Zoramthanga and former Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla attended the event. All 10 newly elected MNF MLAs attended the programme.

Two newly elected BJP MLAs and the lone Congress legislator were also present at the programme.

ZPM Legislature Party deputy leader K. Sapdanga was made the Home Minister, while Lalrinpuii from Lunglei East constituency became the first woman Cabinet Minister in Mizoram. She will hold the Health, Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs, Women and Child Development, and Tourism portfolios.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Lalduhoma announced 12 programmes of his new government to be implemented in the next 100 days. The former IPS officer-turned-politician said that his government would give top priority to farmers. "Our government will buy four local products from farmers like ginger, turmeric, chilli, and broomsticks by fixing minimum prices. Farmers will have the choice to sell their products on their own or to the government," he said.

Mr. Lalduhoma, who had served as the security in-charge of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, said that the State's financial condition is in "bad shape", and the new government will "declare the next fiscal year as a year of consolidation".

The new Budget will be oriented to ZPM policies and all Ministers will monitor their departments by a road map, he said.

Mr. Lalduhoma also said that his government will form committees, involving Ministers, MLAs, officials, representatives of all political parties, NGOs, churches and Mizo People's Forum (MPF), a poll watchdog, to monitor development projects across the State.

Graft, nepotism replaced by growth in 10 years: Shah

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said India's youth were now looking ahead to a golden future as corruption, nepotism and casteism had been replaced by growth and development in the last 10 years. Mr. Shah, who was speaking at the 69th national conference of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), added that no one believed Ram temple could ever become a reality in Ayodhya.

"If you look at the discourses of the ABVP before 10 years ago, there were only mentions of agitations. But today new policies are implemented. Politics of performance has been established in place of dynasticism, appeasement and casteism. Under Modi *Ji*, we have become the fifth largest economy," said Mr. Shah.

Speaking about the abrogation of Article 370, he said that now no one could stop anyone from hoisting the national flag in Kashmir. "There is a 70% reduction in violence in hotspots like Kashmir and the northeast," he said.

He said: "No one thought that we would one day build the Ram Temple. It is not only the Ram Temple, but also the Vishwanath Temple destroyed by Aurangzeb, Badrinath, Kedarnath, and Somnath temple that are being built with gold. No one thought that medical and engineering education could be imparted in the mother language."

Speaking on how the ABVP, in 75 years, had worked on creating awareness against infiltrations across the country, Mr. Shah said, "When I stepped here I heard a slogan raised for Kashmir and the northeast. I want to tell you that there is nothing to worry, both Kashmir and the northeast belong to us. Moreover, the 3D movement related to preventing infiltration involving the action plan of Detect, Delete and Deport has been carried out with consistency by the ABVP. It is only the Vidyarthi Parishad that had the largest number of workers in jail for protesting the Emergency."

New climate draft seeks tripling of renewable energy capacity

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The tripling of energy capacity was a clause that first came up formally during the G-20 summit in India. REUTERS

The latest draft of the Global Stocktake, one of the key documents being negotiated at the UN's climate summit in Dubai, has linked the tripling of renewable energy capacity with a "phase-out", or a time-bound ending, of the use of fossil fuels.

Though by no means final and only offered as an "option", it expresses a strong push by the leadership at the COP-28 climate talks to move towards ending the fossil fuel economy.

"Tripling renewable energy capacity globally by 2030... ensuring that the increase in renewable energy capacity is strategically implemented to displace fossil fuel-based energy, thereby significantly reducing global reliance on non-renewable and high-emission energy sources," appears as one of the options that participant Ministers can deliberate upon and choose to retain or exclude in the final version of the agreement, expected on December 12. The draft can be viewed on the UN climate website.

India is unlikely to agree to such a clause, a source close to negotiations told *The Hindu*, as it was "prescriptive" in tenor. "Much more consultation remains and India's position is to not support such a clause. Tripling capacity is fine but not with such conditions which are prescriptive in nature," the person said.

The latest draft also does away with the clause calling for a "just and orderly phase-out of fossil fuel" that appeared in the first version of the text on December 6.

This has now been replaced with four pointed options demanding that fossil fuels – responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions – be phased out in such a way that global temperatures do not rise more than 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, and energy companies become fossil fuel-free by mid-century. Here too, there's an option for "no text", meaning that all references to doing away with fossil fuels can be entirely deleted.

Unchanged from an earlier version of the text is the clause on a "rapid phase-out of unabated coal power".

At the COP-26 in Glasgow two years ago, on the insistence of India and backed by the United States and China, the world had agreed to "phase down" but not "phase out" coal.

'Unacceptable riders'

The tripling of energy capacity was a clause that first came up formally in international agreements during the G-20 summit in India. However, India has chosen not to commit to such a pledge at COP-28 as it came with "unacceptable" riders, according to those familiar with the Indian position.

On Friday, Simon Steill, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, under whose purview the talks are taking place, said, "This week, I don't want to see diversions and political tactics that hold climate ambition hostage. I urge all ministers and negotiators to think outside the box."

'Define climate finance'

India on Friday focused on the other big lacuna in negotiations regarding "climate finance".

While this broadly refers to funds that are necessary for countries to transition their economies to renewable energy, and adapt to climate change, only a fraction of promised sums have actually made their way from developed to developing countries and a definition of such financing remains hazy.

"The lack of a definition leads to a lack of trust and transparency on a matter that should be as clear as crystal," said Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, addressing a ministerial dialogue on climate finance. He said that countries should prioritise defining climate finance, which would then automatically translate into the best ways to fund the clean energy transition.

Differing definitions mean that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has estimated that climate finance in 2020 amounted to $83 billion, while Oxfam estimated that it was only $22 billion.

Climate finance must account for the specific circumstances of a country, to be actual grants not requiring interest payments, and low-cost loans, Mr. Yadav argued.

"The flow of finance has to be along with access to technology such as offshore wind, battery storage. In the absence of these, it would not be possible for the developing countries to meet their commitments on the Paris Agreement," he warned.

I-T seizures: Modi says money looted from public will have to be returned

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR/RANCHI

The I-T department seizes cash after raids against a distillery group and linked entities.

With the Income Tax Department recovering a total of over ₹220 crore in cash during searches in places linked to an Odisha-based distillery group till Friday afternoon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the money looted from the public would have to be returned. He was referring to political leaders in Odisha and Jharkhand who have links with the liquor firm.

"The countrymen should look at the pile of these notes and then listen to the honest 'speeches' of their leaders... Whatever has been looted from the public, every penny will have to be returned, this is Modi's guarantee," Mr. Modi said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

The mobile phone of a Jharkhand MP, who allegedly has links with the liquor company, was found switched off when PTI tried to contact him.

Continuing its searches, the I-T Department on Friday found 156 bags of cash during search for the third consecutive day in places linked to an Odisha-based distillery group on charges of tax evasion, officials said. From the bags, ₹20 crore were counted, taking the total amount so far recovered to ₹220 crore.

The department officials recovered as many as 156 bags containing cash during the searches at Sudapada in Bolangir district on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Odisha unit of the BJP at a press conference demanded a CBI probe into the entire episode and sought clarification from the BJD.

Judges should not preach: SC on Calcutta HC's advice to girls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said judges are not expected to preach or express personal views even as it took exception to remarks in a Calcutta High Court judgment advising adolescent girls to "control sexual urges".

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Pankaj Mithal took *suo motu* cognisance of the observations made in the High Court judgment dealing with a POCSO case and said they were "highly objectionable and completely unwarranted".

"*Prima facie*, we are of the view that the judges are not expected to express personal views or preach," Justice Oka observed orally. The top court issued notice to the West Bengal government and appointed senior advocate Madhavi Divan and advocate Liz Mathew *amicus curiae* to assist the court.

A High Court Bench of Justices Chitta Ranjan Dash and Partha Sarathi Sen had observed in its October 18 judgment that it was the "duty/obligation of every female adolescent to; protect her right to integrity of her body; protect her dignity and self-worth; thrive for overall development of her self transcending gender barriers; control sexual urge/urges as in the eyes of the society she is the loser when she gives in to enjoy the sexual pleasure of hardly two minutes; protect her right to autonomy of her body and her privacy".

India strategic partner but plot must be probed: U.S.

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Describing India as a strategic partner, the U.S. said it wants to deepen the relations with the country unabated on a range of issues but at the same time wants it to fully investigate the plot to assassinate a Khalistani separatist, Gurpatwant Pannun, in New York and hold accountable those responsible.

National Security spokesperson John Kirby's remarks came while responding to a question on the impact that the alleged plot would have on the bilateral relationship. "We recognise the seriousness of allegations.. We want it fully investigated and those responsible to be held accountable," Mr. Kirby said.

Mahua Moitra strikes a defiant note, says her fight will not stop

Trinamool leader says the findings of the panel were based on two contradictory affidavits filed by two private individuals; she accuses Modi govt. of trying to shut down a woman MP in the very Parliament that passed the women's reservation Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Denied permission to speak inside the Lok Sabha, expelled MP Mahua Moitra struck a defiant note on the steps of the new Parliament building. Flanked by a range of Opposition leaders, from Congress leaders Rahul and Sonia Gandhi to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Ms. Moitra declared: "This is the beginning of your [Narendra Modi-led government's] end. We will come back and see the end of you."

Ms. Moitra tore into the report of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, saying that its findings against her were based on two contradictory affidavits filed by two private individuals, adding that there was no evidence of her receiving cash or any other pecuniary benefits to ask questions in the House.

In support: Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra, backed by Opposition MPs, addresses media outside Parliament on Friday. ANI

Dressed in a traditional Bengali sari, the former Krishnanagar MP read out from an address she had prepared to deliver in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Ethics Committee report. The Opposition leaders ceded centre stage to her; they made no speeches, but instead stood silently, listening to Ms. Moitra.

"The two testimonies used to hang me are polar opposites to each other. The complainant [BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehradai] says I accepted cash and considerations from a businessman to ask questions in furtherance of his commercial interests. But the businessman's [industrialist Darshan Hiranandani's] *suo moto* affidavit says I pressurised him into uploading questions to further my agenda. The Ethics Committee, without getting to the root of this, has decided to hang me," she said.

The recommendation of expulsion was based, Ms. Moitra noted, solely on the grounds that she had shared her log-in details for the Lok Sabha; however, there are no rules governing the sharing of log-in credentials.

"All of us MPs are conveyor belts to get questions from citizens and to voice that in Parliament," she said.

Drawing attention to the recently passed law to reserve seats for women in Parliament and the State legislatures, she said that while the 17th Lok Sabha has been historic, it would also be known for the "tenacious witch-hunt of one of the 78 women MPs". She underlined that she was a "first timer" in Parliament, a "single woman with no political lineage", and elected from a far-flung constituency on the Indo-Bangaladesh border. "I am 49 years old. I will fight you for the next 30 years, inside and outside Parliament, in the gutter and on the street," she declared.

'BJP hates women'

The Modi government and the BJP hated "minorities" and "women", she said, pointing to the recent incident when BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri used abusive language against BSP MP Danish Ali.

Predicting that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would now knock at her door and harass her for the next six months, she asked why the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate had not found the time to look into the allegations of a ₹13,000-crore coal scam involving industrialist Gautam Adani

The speed with which action was taken against her, Ms. Moitra said, demonstrated how important Mr. Adani was to the government and the lengths that the government would go to protect him.

Mamata backs expelled Trinamool MP, says she will get ticket in next LS election

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Standing firmly behind Mahua Moitra and calling her expulsion from the Lok Sabha "unacceptable", West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Friday gave hints that the Trinamool Congress would field Ms. Moitra from Krishnanagar in the Lok Sabha election next year.

"No reason why Mahua will not be given ticket in the next election. Party has already made her district president (of Krishnanagar organisational district)," Ms. Banerjee said when asked whether Ms. Moitra would be given ticket in 2024. She expressed surprise that Ms. Moitra was not allowed to defend herself and Parliament members were not given enough time to go through the report tabled by the Ethics Committee. "Within half an hour every political party discussed, two to three minutes to all political parties. You tabled a 495 page (report of Ethics Committee) and you didn't allow the victim to take her own stand for self defence. This is really unfortunate. It is unacceptable and unjust," Ms. Banerjee said.

Mamata Banerjee

"This matter has opened our eyes again against the vindictive politics of the BJP. This is unfortunate for democracy. I thought that the Prime Minister must have reconsidered. But when I got the information I was shocked. It is a sad day for democracy," Ms. Banerjee said.

She said the Trinamool Congress would fight the battle politically and "Mahua will win the battle". She also added that the BJP would be defeated in the Lok Sabha election.

'People's parliament'

Ms. Banerjee said that Ms. Moitra should go to the "people's parliament" which will boost her confidence. She described Ms. Moitra as a "victim of circumstances" and said that the party was "fully behind her". The Trinamool Congress leadership had expressed support for Ms. Moitra in the past; but the remarks by the Chief Minister within an hour of her expulsion has made it clear that the the party would raise the issue in the upcoming election.

The development has brought the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and the Left parties on one platform. Ms. Banerjee congratulated the parties in the INDIA bloc for backing Ms. Moitra and expressed hope that all parties in the alliance would contest the Lok Sabha election together.

Cong. conducts 'frank discussions' on M.P.; Nath's future unclear

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/BHOPAL/RAIPUR

Five days after a dismal performance in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, the Congress top leadership, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and former president Rahul Gandhi, held "frank discussions" on the results.

Briefing presspersons after the meeting in New Delhi, Randeep Surjewala, AICC general secretary in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, said that free and frank discussions were held about the results and the shortcomings were also discussed. The party high command will take the feedback from the MLAs-elect about the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly to be nominated by the party, he added.

Mr. Surjewala, however, did not make a comment whether there was a discussion over the future role of Madhya Pradesh Congress chief and former

Kamal Nath

Chief Minister Kamal Nath at the meeting, where former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh was also present.

Rumours about Mr. Nath's future have been going around. Questions about his leadership was raised even in the run-up to the elections.

Shortly after the meeting, Piyush Babele, media adviser of Mr. Nath, reposted a news item on X claiming that Mr. Nath had been asked to "control and manage better" till the Lok Sabha election. But there was no official confirmation.

Congress holds review meeting on Chhattisgarh Assembly poll defeat

Shubhomoy Sikdar/ Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

Even as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) held a meeting on Friday to review the electoral loss in Chhattisgarh, a member of the outgoing Bhupesh Baghel Cabinet has targeted Mr. Baghel for the defeat.

After the meeting – held in Delhi and attended by the national leaders as well as those from the State unit, including Mr. Baghel – Kumari Selja, the AICC in-charge of Chhattisgarh, expressed disappointment while also listing out some factors that the party considered as positive.

She, however, did not offer any specific comment on what led to the party not only losing the mandate, but also its strength in the Assembly shrinking to less than half (35) of what it had (71).

"We had a trustworthy government. We also won the trust of the people. We lost the elections. We could not form the government; we are disappointed but not discouraged,"Ms. Selja told presspersons after the meeting.

AICC Chhattisgarh in-charge Kumari Selja with former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. FILE PHOTO

But on the day the meeting was held, Jai Singh Agrawal, one of the nine Ministers to lose the Assembly polls, openly came out against Mr. Baghel, accusing him of centralisation of power and running the show with his close aides.

"Our government could not properly respect the mandate we received [in 2018]. The Ministers did not get the power they were supposed to get. One force remained centralised and worked with some selected forces for the whole five years, which was an atmosphere of tussle," he said.

Mr. Agrawal further alleged that the administrative officials and police officers were obstructing development work, mentioning the names of IPS officer Abhishek Meena and Ranu Sahu (a bureaucrat currently in jail due to her involvement in the alleged liquor scam, according to the Directorate of Enforcement).

Notably, corruption allegations were one of the main components of the BJP's successful campaign in Chhattisgarh, paving the way for its return to power with a positive vote swing of 13% and victory in 54 seats in the 90-member Assembly.

Mr. Agrawal also questioned the impact of Mr. Baghel's farmer-centric approach in the urban seats such as Korba. (The BJP won all 19 urban seats).

Questioning the ticket distribution formula and the surveys on the basis of which the selections were made, he also alleged foul play in ticket distribution.

While other leaders such as former Ministers T.S. Singh Deo and Amarjeet Bhagat have made comments on the loss, they have refrained from pointing fingers.

While Mr. Bhagat has hinted towards infighting, Mr. Singh Deo compared the loss to the Indian cricket team going down to Australia in the finals of World Cup.

'Mahua targeted for anti-Adani campaign'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra's expulsion from the Lok Sabha brought together leaders of the INDIA bloc who have been at loggerheads with each other.

The Opposition leaders accused the government of targeting her because of her sustained campaign against industrialist Gautam Adani. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, in a post on X said that the BJP should hire consultants who can work towards expelling the Opposition members from Parliament so that Ministers get enough time to work for the public.

Congress social media in-charge Supriya Shrinate said the BJP did not tolerate anyone criticising Mr. Adani.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o Dy. CE (TD), 5th Floor, Dreamax Plaza, Jaipur, Email: dyce.td.jpr@rvvun.com
E Tender Notice: TN-15(RVU2324GLOE01838)
Online tenders are invited for Procurement of Conveyor Belts for various power plants of RVUN. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11403 RVUN/PR-3942 Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 : Website : www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-10914
E-Tender Enq. No. 506/P-1/EMPW-12499 dated 07.12.2023
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invited E-Tender ID No. 2023_POWER_113600_1 for Routine cleaning of Ghanauli syphon drains in plant area along with Cutting and clearance of wild Growth at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.pubjab.gov.in from 07.12.2023/ 6.00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP - 144/23 76155/12/2485/2023/30484

'Dropout rates among SC, ST, OBC students a concern'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member K.C. Venugopal questioned the Union government on its alleged indifference to the high dropout rates among students from the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes in Central higher education institutions.

During Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Venugopal said that as per a recent answer given by the government in Parliament, 13,626 students from the SC, ST and OBC communities dropped out of Central universities in the past five years. He urged the government to take immediate steps to stem this dropout rate and to address the concerns of students.

Private Bill seeks power for Assemblies to remove Governors

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Friday on a private member's Bill to amend the Constitution saw members demanding a system to fix the accountability of Governors.

The Bill, moved by CPI (M) MP V. Sivadasan, sought to provide powers to the State Assemblies to remove Governors.

Mr. Sivadasan said in the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill that the stature and dignity of the Governor's office required that the person who held such a position enjoyed the legitimate support of the people and was accountable to the people of the State.

"To appoint the Head of the State governments through executive orders is antithetical to the spirit of democracy and federal spirit," he argued in the Bill.

The Bill sought amendments to the Constitution so that the Governor is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of Legislative Assemblies of the States and elected members of the gram panchayats, municipalities and corporations of the States. "The election of the Governor shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot," the Bill said.

Most of the Opposition members who were present during the debate supported the Bill. They said Parliament must intervene to protect the federal rights of the States.

Mail ID : sepwdbalangir@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice - BID IDENTIFICATION No.CCE(R&B) BGR/42/2023-24
Letter No.6716 // Dtd.07.12.2023
The **Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate **composite** bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **"A" Class** Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1. Nature of Work	:	**Building Work**
2. No. of tender	:	**Building Work - 1 Nos**
3. Tender Cost	:	**Rs.10,000/-**
4. Class of Contractor	:	**"A"**
5. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	:	From **Dt.11.12.2023, 10.00 A.M.** to **Dt.20.12.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.**
6. Date of Opening of Bid	:	**Dt.21.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **http://tendersorissa.gov.in.** All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.
Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
B-1410: OIPR-34131/11/0045/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone:-06842 254004 E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_19 of 2023-24
No. 2880 Dated : 02/12/2023

1.	The **Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani** on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for construction of the **Bridge & Building works** as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Bridge & Building Works.**
3.	No. of tenders	:	**Four Nos**
4.	Tender Cost	:	**Rs.10,000/-** (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**B & A Class**
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids	:	**10.00 AM of 12.12.2023 to 5.00 PM of 27.12.2023**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**11.00 AM** of **28.12.2023**
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
B-1416: OIPR-34129/11/0021/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender Call Notice
E-mail : rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 35/2023-24
Memo No - Dt.
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Buildings work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work	:	Buildings Works
2. No of Work	:	5 Nos
3. Tender Cost	:	Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor	:	B & A Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website	:	From **10.00 AM** of **Dt.12.12.2023** to **05.00 PM of Dt.21.12.2023 up to 5.00 PM**
6. Date of Opening of Bid	:	**Dt 22.12.2023 at 11.30 AM**

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-1413 : OIPR-34127/11/0044/2324

Tel.06766-258301(0); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
1st Corrigendum Notice
Identification No. Bridge-cum-Weir Online NCB No.400
No. 4471 / Date : 7/12/23
1. Under unavoidable circumstances, the availability of tender online for bidding, opening of Technical Bid & Financial Bid of the tender invited vide eProcurement Notice No. 4248 Dtd: 21.11.23 / Bid Identification No. **Bridge Online NCB No.400** of Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar is hereby rescheduled as below.
2. The approximate amount put to tender may be read as Rs.190.00 Lakhs instead of Rs.196.44 Lakhs.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.400	Dt.29.11.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.21.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.20.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.22.12.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-1755: OIPR-25177/11/0043/2324

INBRIEF

Bhutan author Tshering Tashi gets Premchand Fellowship

Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi was on Friday conferred the Premchand Fellowship of the Sahitya Akademi. Based in Bhutan's capital Thimphu, Mr. Tashi is a writer known for his works in the field of creative non-fiction. He has written numerous books on Bhutan and has made his country accessible, engaging, and interesting for the youth. After the conferment of the fellowship, Mr. Tashi delivered a lecture on "Storytelling: The Repository of Culture" through which he traced the deep cultural and historical connection between India and Bhutan and the contribution of both countries in the spread of Buddhism. Mr. Tashi is the 12th recipient of the fellowship.

Six killed, five injured in a candle factory fire in Pune

At least six people were killed and five more were injured after a fire broke out at a sparkling candle manufacturing unit in the Pimpri-Chinchwad area of Pune district. Authorities said most of the deceased were women. An explosion could have triggered the blaze, they said. "The fire may have been caused because the candles, generally used for birthday celebrations, were being manufactured illegally inside the compound," said an officer of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation's (PCMC) fire department. The injured were moved to Sassoon hospital in Pune city. Investigation into the cause of the blaze is under way, said PCMC officials.

NHRC notice to Manipur govt. over Tengnoupal killing

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued notice to the Manipur government over the killing of 13 people in a gunfight at Leithao village in Tengnoupal district on December 4. The commission said the incident pointed to lapses on the part of the law enforcing agencies. It issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, seeking a detailed report in the matter within two weeks. It should include the status of the FIR registered by the police and steps taken by the State government to ensure that such incidents do not take place again.

CBI coordinates return of rape accused from UAE

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has coordinated the return of a rape accused from the UAE through Interpol channels. The accused, identified as Midhun V. V. Chandran, was wanted by the Bengaluru City Police for the offences of rape, criminal intimidation, and other crimes. "The Global Operations Centre of CBI has coordinated with the Interpol National Central Bureau-Abu Dhabi; Karnataka police; Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi; and the Ministry of External Affairs; to get the Red Notice subject back. He was brought to India by a team of the State police," said an official. The Interpol Red Notice was issued against him on January 20.

Centre bans onion export till March; Nashik farmers protest

Shipments of onion whose loading had commenced before the notification can be exported; farmers block Mumbai-Agra National Highway, disrupt auction at Lasalgaon and other places

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The government earlier imposed a 40% duty on the export of onions until December 31, to increase availability amid signs of increasing prices and to provide relief to consumers. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Centre has imposed a ban on the export of onions till March 31, 2024 to curb the surging local prices of the product.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in an order late on Thursday said, "Export policy of onions... is amended from free to prohibited till March 31, 2024."

On August 19, the Union government had imposed a 40% duty on the export of onions (minimum export price of $800 a tonne) until December 31, to increase domestic availability amid signs of increasing prices and to provide relief to local consumers.

The DGFT said that onion exports, however, would be allowed based on the permission granted by the government to other countries based on their request and that shipments whose loading had commenced before the fresh notification was issued would be allowed to be exported.

In response to the announcement, farmers in Nashik district of Maharashtra took to the streets, blocking the Mumbai-Agra National Highway at three locations.

The farmers also disrupted auctions at Lasalgaon, the largest wholesale onion market in Asia; Chandwad; Nandgaon; Dindori; Yeola; Umarane; and other places in Nashik. Stating that the ban would adversely impact farmers, protesters staged road blockades with tractors for hours.

With no auction at the Lasalgaon APMC, over 600 onion-laden vehicles were redirected to Vinchur with wholesale prices ranging from ₹1,500 to ₹3,300 per quintal.

Lasalgaon APMC chairperson Balasaheb Kshirsagar condemned the government's decision, saying that it was unfavourable to farmers.

"Onion prices has recently come down, and the ban will lead to losses. Currently, onion prices range from ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 per quintal, despite some selling at ₹3,000 per quintal," he said, accusing middlemen for the artificial price inflation.

Mr. Kshirsagar demanded direct government sales without the involvement of middlemen.

"Farmers have already suffered losses due to unseasonal rainfall and hail. It [Centre] must revoke its decision on the ban to support farmers," another farmer said.

Farmers and traders associations are likely to meet Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his deputy Ajit Pawar, and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar to express their concerns.

Centre revises wheat stock limits to rein in prices, hoarding

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

For traders and wholesalers, the limit has been reduced to 1,000 tonnes. PTI

The Centre revised the wheat stock limits on Friday as the increase in the prices of wheat and wheat flour (atta) remained unchanged in many parts of the country. For traders and wholesalers, the limit was reduced to 1,000 tonnes from 2,000 tonnes.

For retailers, the revised limit for each retail outlet is five tonnes. Big chain retailers can stock five tonnes for each of their outlets and 1,000 tonnes at all their depots. For processors, the new limit is 70% of the monthly installed capacity multiplied by the remaining months of 2023-24. It was 75% of the annual installed capacity or quantity equivalent to monthly installed capacity multiplied by the remaining months of 2023-24, whichever is less.

The government said the decision was taken to manage the overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation. The moves have been taken under the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2023 of the Centre. The Food Ministry asked all wheat stocking entities to register on the wheat stock limit portal and update the stock position every Friday.

"Any entity which is found to have not registered on the portal or violates the stock limits will be subject to suitable punitive action under Section 6 & 7 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955," the Ministry warned, adding that the entities have 30 days to bring the stocks to prescribed limits. "Officials of Central and State governments will be closely monitoring enforcement of these stock limits to ensure that no artificial scarcity of wheat is created in the country," the Ministry said.

The Centre has also decided to increase supplies in the open market from three lakh tonnes to four lakh tonnes with immediate effect.

SC issues notice to L-G on plea for fund release by Delhi govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) on a plea by the Delhi government to release funds for its *Farishtey Dilli Ke* scheme providing free treatment to accident victims.

Issuing notice to Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, a Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai asked why one wing of the government was "fighting" another.

The court decided to take up the case immediately after the Christmas vacation.

"You [the Centre] are doing public order, law and order and land in Delhi. Now you want health too just because it is under a secretary... This scheme is completely social welfare. There is no politics here. But payment for the scheme has been stopped," senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the Delhi government, submitted.

The plea has sought immediate re-operationalisation of the scheme by clearing pending bills, releasing timely payments to private hospitals and initiating disciplinary action against officials responsible for deliberately orchestrating the "de-operationalisation" of the scheme.

"Hospitals are now reluctant to accept accident victims and this scheme has practically become defunct for more than a year," the plea said.

The petition said the scheme was sinking due to inaction, mismanagement and lackadaisical attitude of officials.

India's re-emergence in field of art and architecture will benefit entire world, says PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale at the Red Fort in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's re-emergence to a pre-eminent position in the field of art and architecture would benefit all of humanity, adding that his government was working to institutionalise global cultural initiatives.

India is working to develop a modern system on the lines of similar cultural events in cities like Venice, London, and Sao Paulo, Mr. Modi said while inaugurating the maiden India Art, Architecture, and Design Biennale at the Red Fort.

Mr. Modi also mentioned the cultural spaces which are being built in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Varanasi and said that these would enrich the cities culturally. "India's vibrant culture and ancient heritage attracts tourists from all over the world," he said. Art and culture have been sources of diversity as well as unity, he said, adding that they also connect people and spread harmony.

The biennale has exhibitions on seven themes – Doors of India, Gardens of India, *Baolis* (stepwells) of India, Temples of India, Architectural Wonders of Independent India, Indigenous Design, and Women in Architecture and Design. The exhibitions have been designed in both physical and digital forms accompanied by interactive installations. There would also be panel discussions and interactive sessions with audiences.

'Seniority of judges doesn't influence case allocation'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Advocate Prashant Bhushan has written to the Supreme Court Registry alleging "irregularity" in the listing of a case challenging criminal prosecution of lawyers and a journalist under the UAPA.

Pending matters follow the senior judge and is listed before the puisne judge only if the former is unavailable, he said, adding that the rules were "arbitrarily breached" in the listing of the case.

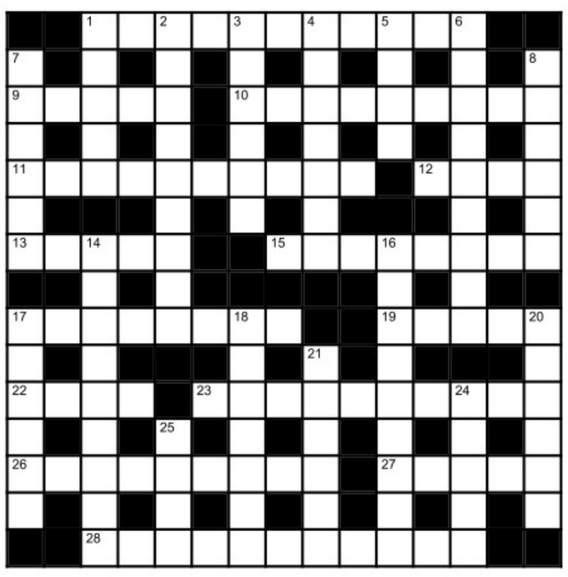
However, a source in the Registry said seniority of judges did not influence allocation of cases. Cases heard by a Bench can either remain with the lead judge or follow the associate judge when he or she starts to head a new Bench, the source said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14041

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Agreeing to take on the job of burying people (11)
9 Actress Sophia staying in Bangalore nunnery (5)
10 Bad palate is damaged? It is capable of change (9)
11 Once again, production is fun! (10)
12 Soon available in Vaughan, Ontario (4)
13 Island's headgear has a piece of ribbon (5)
15 Argued about a male offspring with editor (8)
17 Raven had constructed covered porch (8)
19 A fantastic pose for a fabulous author? (5)
22 Perhaps what Pinocchio does... in bed? (4)
23 Ex-president is accompanied by unusually terse musicians (10)
26 Brand name to deal with old German currency (9)
27 Boring instrument produced by Australia and Germany (5)
28 Female born on 1st of January? Or a few hours earlier? (3,5,3)

Down

1 Perhaps, Hungarian university had Greek in charge (5)
2 Karnataka town accepts old name for flower (9)
3 Responds on pieces of legislation (6)
4 Sailor, single-handedly, gets marine creature (7)
5 A little bit from India's Officers Training Academy, for starters (4)
6 Depart with fruits and become mad (2,7)
7 Uncle Richard shelters priest (6)
8 Wrote: "Shelter for domesticated animal and shelter for wild animal sent back" (6)
14 China's crop destroyed by flying alien (9)
16 Old partner's draw in chess (9)
17 Victor gets drinks having a bit of tequila for parking attendants (6)
18 Fear IRA may provide cost of flight (7)
20 Father's attempt to make baked dish (6)
21 Cigarette user's donkey is with Romeo (6)
24 In absence of wind, wide angle shows bird (5)
25 Setter takes whiskey after Oscar gets cat-call (4)

SUDOKU

		1	3					
4	9	3	5			8		
	7		1				6	
		7				5		
	4		2		7		1	
		8				3		
	5				3		8	
		9			8	2	5	7
					9	1		

No.SS6002 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	T		A		A		I		S		S		R	
J	U	S	T		T	A	B	L	E	S	P	O	O	N
	R		L		H		I		N		R		L	
I	N	C	A	S	E		D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E
	S		N		N				I		N			
S	T	A	T	U	S	E	S		B	U	G	L	E	S
	I		I				W		L				Y	
A	L	A	S		F	L	A	R	E		P	I	E	R
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E	S	P	I	E	D			P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N
			N		E				O		S		L	
B	E	L	G	R	A	D	E		G	R	O	W	L	S
	R		O		W		E		A		N		I	
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	E	R		E	R	N	E
	S		S		Y		S		T		R		G	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	8	2	1	6	3	9	5
2	9	6	8	3	5	7	4	1
1	5	3	7	4	9	6	2	8
8	6	7	4	5	3	9	1	2
5	2	9	1	8	7	4	6	3
3	1	4	9	6	2	8	5	7
6	3	2	5	7	4	1	8	9
9	4	1	3	2	8	5	7	6
7	8	5	6	9	1	2	3	4

FAITH

Raghuveera Gadyam

The Azhwars have composed numerous verses saluting Lord Rama's manifold characteristics. The Sri Vasishnava sect in particular hails Lord Rama as Mahavir, the valorous One, the One who helps a devotee conquer his many fears. Azhwars and acharyas have celebrated Rama in various works. Raghuveera Gadyam by Swami Vedanta Desikan is one of the most powerful works, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse. Originally titled as Mahavira Vaibhavam, with its ready acceptance by devotees, it soon became known as Raghuveera Gadyam.

The work not only lauds Rama as the victor in each salutation, but also narrates the entire Ramayana (Valmiki's) in a crisp 94 passage prose format. It addresses the universal template of fear. Everyone is afraid, in varying degrees, of ill-health, a weak bank balance, lack of a lineage and divine grace. Swami Desikan begins his work by saying, *"Jayathyaasritha santhraasa dhwaantha vidhvamsanodhaya: prabhaavaan seethayaa devyaa paramavyoma bhaskara:"* Simply translated, it hails Rama thus: Our Lord who is the Sun of Paraamkasam (Vaikuntam), shines with supreme effulgence. He took incarnation as the son of Dasaratha to destroy the darkness (fear) of those who sought refuge at His feet. He is inseparable from Sita Devi, just as the disc is inseparable from its lustre.

BANDE DE GAZA

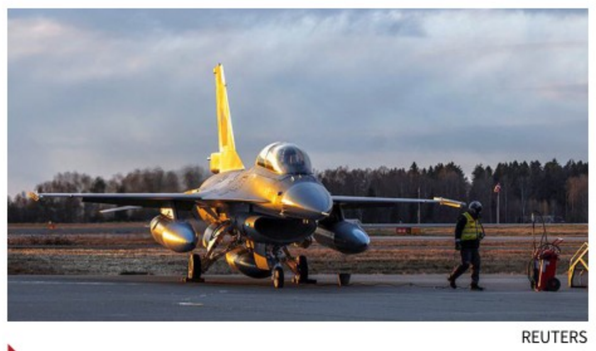
Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer killed in Israeli strike on Gaza

REUTERS

Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer, one of the leaders of a young generation of authors in Gaza who chose to write in English to tell their stories, was killed in an Israeli strike. Alareer said a few days after Israel began its ground offensive in October that he refused to leave northern Gaza, the epicentre of the fighting at the time. AFP

ISTANBUL

Erdogan links Sweden's NATO bid to sale of F-16 fighter jets by U.S.



REUTERS

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made Turkey's ratification of Sweden's stalled NATO membership application conditional on the U.S. Congress "simultaneously" approving Ankara's request for F-16 fighter jets. Sweden and Finland have sought NATO membership as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. AFP

BAGHDAD

Rockets fired at U.S. embassy in Baghdad amid Gaza war

AP

Salvoes of rockets were launched on Friday at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, the mission said, the latest in a flurry of such attacks amid the Israel-Hamas war. The U.S. leads an international coalition battling jihadists in Iraq and neighbouring Syria, and its forces have come under repeated attack. AFP

WASHINGTON

After gun charges, Hunter Biden indicted on nine more counts

REUTERS

Hunter Biden was indicted on nine tax charges in California as a special counsel investigation into the business dealings of President Joe Biden's son intensifies. The new charges are in addition to federal firearms charges in Delaware alleging Hunter Biden broke laws against drug users having guns in 2018. AP

Amid Israeli bombings, safe areas shrink for Palestinians

UN's aid operation is 'in tatters' because no place in the enclave is safe; troops round up and strip hundreds of Palestinians for questioning about their suspected ties to Hamas in Beit Lahiya

Associated Press
RAFAH

Desperate Palestinians fleeing Israel's expanding ground offensive crowded into an ever-shrinking area of the Gaza Strip as the Israel-Hamas war entered its third month on Friday. The United Nations warned that its aid operation is "in tatters" because no place in the besieged enclave is safe.

The Israeli Army said that over the past day, its forces had struck about 450 targets in the tiny, densely populated Gaza Strip, signalling the continued intensity of a campaign that has already led to widespread civilian casualties and mass displacements.

Israel also dropped leaflets over parts of Gaza with a biblical warning to Hamas leaders that it would take "a life for a life, an eye for an eye." A day after troops rounded up hundreds of Palestinians for questioning about suspected ties to Hamas, an Israeli government spokesman suggested that practice would continue.

Persistent strikes: Shells explode over the hills around the southern Lebanese village of Aita al-Shaab on Sunday. AFP

The first images of such roundups emerged on Thursday from the northern town of Beit Lahiya, showing dozens of men kneeling or sitting in the streets, stripped down to their underwear, their hands bound behind their backs and some with their heads bowed.

Israel has vowed to crush the military capabilities of Hamas, which rules Gaza, and remove it from power following the group's October 7 attack that sparked the war.

Israel's air and ground campaign initially focused on the northern half of Gaza, leading hundreds of thousands of residents to flee south. Intense battles continued in parts of the north in recent days.

Boys detained

UN monitors said Israeli troops reportedly detained men and boys from the age of 15 in a school-turned-shelter in the town of Beit Lahiya, in the north.

With the entire Gaza Strip under military assault, tens of thousands of people displaced by the fighting have packed into the border city of Rafah, in the far south of the Gaza Strip, and Muwasi, a nearby patch of barren coastline that Israel has declared a safe zone.

Israel's campaign has killed more than 17,100 people in Gaza – 70% of them women and children – and wounded more than 46,000.

Six killed in raid by Israeli forces on West Bank

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

Israeli forces shot dead six Palestinians on Friday in a raid on a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as the army confirmed it conducted a "counter-terrorism" operation.

The Ministry said those who lost their lives included a 14-year-old boy and an 18-year-old.

It said they had been killed "by bullets from the occupation (Israel) in the Al-Fara refugee camp" near Tubas.

The Palestinian Red Crescent also reported having treated six persons wounded by gunfire, one of them critically.

Putin to seek another term as President, extending his rule of over two decades

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin on Friday moved to prolong his repressive and unyielding grip on Russia for at least another six years, announcing his candidacy in the presidential election next March that he is all but certain to win.

Mr. Putin still commands wide support after nearly a quarter-century in power, despite starting an immensely costly war in Ukraine that has taken thousands of his countrymen's lives, provoked repeated attacks inside Russia – including one on the Kremlin itself – and corroded its aura of invincibility.

Vladimir Putin

A short-lived rebellion in June by mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin raised widespread speculation that Mr. Putin could be losing his grip, but he emerged with no permanent scars. Prigozhin's death in a mysterious plane crash two months later reinforced the view that Mr. Putin was in absolute control.

Mr. Putin announced his decision to run in the March 17 presidential election after a Kremlin award ceremony.

"I won't hide it from you – I had various thoughts about it over time, but now, you're right, it's necessary to make a decision," Mr. Putin said. "I will run for President of the Russian Federation."

Mr. Putin, 71, has twice used his leverage to amend the constitution so he could theoretically stay in power until he's in his mid-80s. He is already the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, who died in 1953.

U.S. FDA approves pair of gene therapies for sickle cell disease

Reuters

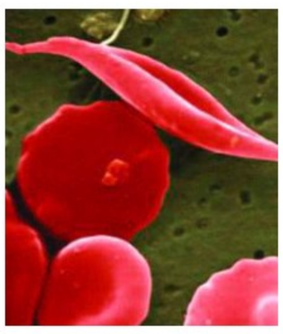
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday approved a pair of gene therapies for sickle cell disease, including the first treatment based on the breakthrough CRISPR gene editing technology.

The agency approved Lyfgenia from bluebird bio, and a separate treatment called Casgevy by partners Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics for the illness.

Both the therapies were approved for people aged 12 years and older.

The Vertex/CRISPR gene therapy uses the breakthrough gene editing technology that won its inventors the Nobel Prize in 2020.

Sickle cell disease is a painful, inherited blood disorder that can be debilitating and lead to premature death. It affects an estimated 1,00,000 people in the U.S., most of whom are Black.



In sickle cell disease, the ability of red blood cells to properly carry oxygen is affected. AP

In sickle cell disease, the body makes flawed, sickle-shaped hemoglobin, impairing the ability of red blood cells to properly carry oxygen to the body's tissues.

The sickle cells tend to stick together and can block small blood vessels, causing intense pain. It also can lead to strokes and organ failure.

Makers of both the therapies have pitched them as one-time treatments, but data on how long their effect lasts is limited. The only longer-term treatment for sickle cell disease is a bone marrow transplant.

Sceptical results

"I actually am very reticent to call them a cure. I prefer to call them a transformative therapy because patients will still have sickle cell disease on the other side of gene therapy," said Dr. Sharl Azar, medical director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Rights group says 94 media workers killed this year

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

A leading organisation representing journalists worldwide expressed deep concern on Friday at the number of media professionals killed around the globe doing their jobs in 2023, with Israel's war with Hamas claiming more journalists than any conflict in over 30 years.

The International Federation of Journalists said 94 journalists had been killed so far this year and almost 400 others had been imprisoned. The figure for deaths is up from 67 in the same period of 2022

The organisation also deplored media deaths in Afghanistan, the Philippines, India, China and Bangladesh.

To combat battlefield challenges, Myanmar pardons soldiers imprisoned for desertion

Associated Press
BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government has been freeing soldiers and police who had been jailed for desertion and absence without leave, seeking to get them to return to active duty, a police officer and an Army officer said on Thursday.

The releases follow an an amnesty plan announced earlier this week to get them back into service in order to ease an apparent manpower shortage.

A police captain in the capital, Naypyitaw, who spoke on condition of anonymity said that many police who were convicted of offences including desertion and absence without leave were released on Thursday, which marked National Victory Day, the anniversary of the 1920 breakout of organised activities against British colonial rule.

It's traditional to have mass prisoner releases on national holidays.

An army officer, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the military since last month has been granting amnesty to convicted soldiers and police who were serving prison sentences of up to three years.

The action of the military government came after state-run newspapers reported that the military would grant amnesty to soldiers who have committed minor crimes who wish to return to active service.

According to Myanmar's Defence Services Act, deserting the Army is punishable by a minimum sentence of seven years imprisonment up to the death penalty.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 : Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-18774)

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-223/2023-24/PR Dated: 07.12.2023

CE/Metering, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCl, Patiala invites E-tender for procurement of 2,300 no. cubicle (Metal Box) for housing LT AC three phase four wire, CT operated static energy meter and 3 no. epoxy resin cast ring type CTs.. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.12.2023 (03:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C - 882/23 76155/12/2482/2023/30480

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Doon Helidrome Dehradun, Sahastradhara Road, P.O Kulhan, Pincode 248013 Tel. 0135 2608981
Notice No.- 9780/UCADA/2023 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 08 Dec., 2023

Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), Govt. of Uttarakhand is Operating and Maintaining its own EC135P2 Helicopter MSN-0294, VT-UAA under its own DGCA issued "CAR145 Approval of Maintenance Organization" at Jollygrant Airport, Dehradun. We are inviting tender for 01 year duration from CAR145 Approved Maintenance Organization by DGCA for providing engineering support and type rated AMEs' in Cat.-B1/B2/C for maintenance and certification of own EC135P2 Helicopter MSN-0294, VT-UAA as and when required basis, under our Quality Control System. This may also be seen on Uttarakhand procurement website **www.uktenders.gov.in**. The detailed tender schedule is as follows:

Date of Downloading of Tender:	09/12/2023 Time: 10:00 hrs
Pre- bid meeting:	15/12/2023 Time: 11:30 hrs
Last date for seeking clarification:	15/12/2023 Time: 11:30 hrs
Start date for submission of bid:	09/12/2023 Time: 10:00 hrs
Last Date for submission of Tender:	23/12/2023 Time: 15:00 hrs
Last Date for submission of documents physically at UCADA:	23/12/2023 Time: 17:00 hrs
Opening of Technical Bid:	23/12/2023 Time: 17:00 hrs

Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated by e-mail to the technically qualified bidders.
For more details, please visit **www.uktenders.gov.in** / official website **www.ucada.in** / Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Doon Helidrome, Mussoorie bypass P.O.- Kulhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248013.
CEO, UCADA

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2326/MSETCL/CO/Projects/T/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001122) MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below. "Work of establishment 220/132/33 kV sub-station at Supa MIDC, Tal.-Parner, Dist.-Ahmednagar along with associated lines under Nashik zone" Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in** The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 05.12.2023.

Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IRRIGATION DIVISION

No.3775/PW/EEI/ID/JE(P)-33/2023-2024 Puducherry, the 08.12.2023

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry invites on behalf of the President of India, online item rate Bids for the following Works:-

01). Tender No.57/PW/IRRN/2023-2024. Name of Work: Construction of Check dam across Sankaraparani River including Protection works at Pillaiyarkuppam in Villianur Commune, Puducherry. Estimate Cost: Rs.19,85,22,618/- (inclusive of 18% GST). Earnest Money: **Rs.29,85,226/-. Period of Completion: Twelve (12) Months (Including Monsoon Period). Last time & Date of submission of Tender: On or before 02.01.2024 at 04.00 P.M.**

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website. **https://pudutenders.gov.in** Please contact **ICICI BANK** for e-payment help desk guidance in Phone Nos. +91-89398 31491, +91-98403 26721, +91-9840806302.

Please contact e-Procurement Cell, 3rd Floor, A Block, Chief Secretariat, Puducherry, e-tender help desk for guidance in Phone No.0413-2220225 & 180030702232 (Toll Free) 0413-2220262. Mail id: support-eproc.pon@nic.in. and Mail ID: **support-eproc.py@supportgov.in.**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
No. 504/DIP/AD(Press)/2023-24

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines).

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 005659	Procurement of Non Ferric Alum for Unit - I	21.12.2023
232413 005686	Procurement of Hot Melt Gum - 214 for Copier Reel Packing	22.12.2023
232413 005687	Procurement of Heat Treated Ply Wood Pallets of various sizes	22.12.2023
232423 003530	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Softwood (BCTMP SW 70) for Unit - II	18.12.2023
Email	232413005659 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 232413005686 & 5687 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 232423003530 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/6536/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu
Ph.: 04332 - 261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232423 003519	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus core wood from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit - II at Mondipatti, Manaparai, Trichy District.	19.12.2023
232413 005668	Supply of Green Bamboo from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - I, Kagitapuram.	20.12.2023
232413 005670	Supply of Casuarina poles with bark pulpwood from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram	16.12.2023
232423 003525	Supply of Casuarina poles with bark pulpwood from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - II at Mondipatti.	18.12.2023
232413 005671	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus poles from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram.	16.12.2023
232423 003526	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus poles from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - II at Mondipatti.	18.12.2023
232413 005766	Supply of Debarked Casuarina poles from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram	19.12.2023
232423 003549	Supply of Debarked Casuarina poles from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit - II at Mondipatti.	20.12.2023
Email	purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website. Detailed Terms & conditions, are available in tender document at our website: **www.tnpl.com**

DIPR/6538/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/21194/2023 Dated : 08.12.2023

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T520/2023	Point of Care Test For Sickle Cell	14.12.2023 11.00 a.m.	26.12.2023 5.00 p.m.
2.	T521(R)/ 2023	Operating Microscope ENT Model C, TMT Machine Model B, Septoplasty Set, Dry Bath, Micro Centrifuge, Micro-Ear Surgery Instruments, Arthroscopy Camera, Instruments and Shaver System Model B, Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Machine	N.A.	27.12.2023 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

SpiceJet says aircraft to return from Dubai, rejoin fleet

SpiceJet said it had obtained a 'favourable' order from a Dubai International Financial Centre Court on the grounding of an aircraft last week for removal of engines by the lessor. "The order was discharged in favour of SpiceJet," it said, adding the judge had directed an inquiry into the losses suffered by SpiceJet as a result of the order. The court had further ordered payment towards the legal costs incurred by SpiceJet, the airline said. On October 30, the court had issued a freezing order for the engines installed on aircraft bearing registration mark VT-SLM.

U.S. job growth sped in Nov.; jobless rate declined to 3.7%

U.S. job growth accelerated in November and the unemployment rate dropped to 3.7% even as more people entered the labour force, pointing to underlying strength in the labour market. Non-farm payrolls increased by 1,99,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) said in its closely-watched employment report on Friday. Employment was in part boosted by the return of automobile workers and actors after strikes. REUTERS

ISMA seeks higher price for ethanol via B-heavy molasses

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has mooted a compensatory rise in price for ethanol made from B- and C-heavy molasses in the wake of the Centre banning use of sugarcane juice and syrup to make ethanol. ISMA sought to convert the balance contracted or cancelled juice stock to B-heavy molasses and allow distilleries to process existing stock to ethanol till December 10.

RBI enhances UPI payment limits, to set rules for online loan aggregators

The central banks raises the UPI payment limit for healthcare and education from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh; RBI also flags concerns over firms that aggregate loan offers from different lenders, saying the aggregators could be harming consumers' interests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Along with steps to protect borrowers availing loans online, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday enhanced the UPI payment limits for healthcare and education to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh, and the limit on recurring e-payment mandates for credit card and insurance premia payments as well as mutual fund investments to ₹1 lakh from the current limit of ₹15,000.

While the RBI had introduced a regulatory framework for digital lending in late 2022, Governor Shaktikanta Das said that several concerns had come to the central bank's notice relating to the web-aggregation of loan products that were harming consumers' interests. He was referring to firms that aggregate loan offers from different lenders for customers to choose from.

"It has, therefore, been decided to lay down a regulatory framework for web-aggregation of loan products. This is expected to result in enhanced customer centricity and transparency in digital lending," he said.

The regulator also sought to get a better grip on the growing incidence of banks and non-banking finance companies partnering with fintechs by proposing the creation of a Fintech Repository by April 2024. FinTechs would be encouraged to provide relevant information voluntarily to this repository, he said.

The kind of details that may be compiled from fintechs were not yet clear. "While we wait for further guidelines, providing important information to the repository voluntarily can help in designing appropriate policy approaches," said Rahul Jain, CFO, NTT DATA Payment Services.

RBI's measures for web-aggregators of loans and fintechs could help "dispel the dark clouds of suspicion hanging over digital lending," said Shriram Finance executive vice chairman Umesh Revankar.

New framework

RBI eases regulations on payments through UPI and bank mandates but tightens the screws on fintechs

- The central bank raises the limit on recurring e-payment mandates for credit card, insurance and mutual fund payments to ₹1 lakh from ₹15,000 currently
- RBI proposes the creation of a Fintech Repository by April as banks and NBFCs begin to partner with fintechs to offer loans
- RBI also opts to regulate web-aggregation of loan products to enhance transparency

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	69,826	0.44
US Dollar	83.40	-0.04
Gold	63,050	0.16
Brent oil	75.86	1.68

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2822.15	-65.00
Adani Ports	1022.95	-16.70
Apollo Hosp	5555.35	93.95
Asian Paints	3232.00	-19.80
Axis Bank	1131.20	13.35
Bajaj Auto	6075.70	-17.90
Bajaj Finserv	1710.15	6.10
Bajaj Finance	7307.60	-83.60
Bharti Airtel	1000.25	0.25
BPCL	470.45	-4.25
Britannia Ind	4942.20	-73.80
Cipla	1219.10	-3.70
Coal India	351.00	-0.95
Divis Lab	3681.75	-52.60
Dr Reddys Lab	5763.90	-21.20
Eicher Motors	4055.00	-36.00
Grasim Ind	2070.05	-11.70
HCL Tech	1364.10	36.10
HDFC Bank	1653.20	22.75
HDFC Life	671.25	-7.05
Hero MotoCorp	3715.75	-56.90
Hindalco	520.35	4.30
Hind Unilever	2522.30	4.05
ICICI Bank	1010.85	11.85
IndusInd Bank	1508.95	4.20
Infosys	1491.15	25.25
ITC	449.15	-8.95
JSW Steel	839.35	20.20
Kotak Bank	1838.45	11.60
L&T	3378.45	22.85
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5708.70	141.50
M&M	1668.55	-24.10
Maruti Suzuki	10618.55	-78.10
NestleIndia	24789.60	-185.65
NTPC	285.05	1.25
ONGC	195.95	-2.95
PowerGrid Corp	228.60	-1.40
Reliance Ind	2455.75	-1.30
SBI Life	1465.20	9.45
State Bank	614.15	2.45
Sun Pharma	1235.80	-3.50
TataConsumerProduct	946.60	-10.30
Tata Motors	714.55	-7.40
Tata Steel	129.20	-0.80
TCS	3626.70	11.80
Tech Mahindra	1225.30	2.05
Titan	3634.65	49.25
UltraTech Cement	9413.55	59.00
UPL	585.20	-1.35
Wipro	422.60	4.35

'India to move to same-day settlement before March 31'

Reuters

India is moving to set up same-day market settlement before the end of the fiscal year in March 2024 and subsequently to instantaneous settlement a year later, Securities and Exchange Board of India chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on Friday.

Currently trades in India are settled in "T+1" or one day after the trades are initiated. T+0 would mean settlements in the same day and instant settlement would ensure trades are settled immediately.

"We are now moving to optionally T+0," Ms. Buch said at an industry event in New Delhi. "It will happen before the end of this financial year and one year from there (it will be) instantaneous."

India is the second country after China to operate on a short settlement cycle of one day.

To safeguard investors' money from misuse, an ASBA-like facility for trading in secondary markets will be available from January or February, PTI reported Ms. Buch as saying.

The Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)-like facility, already available for the primary market, ensures that the investor's funds get moved only when the allotment is completed.

Govt. further tightens stock limits on wheat to curb hoarding

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday further tightened stock holding norms for wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors with immediate effect to curb hoarding and to check price rise.

Briefing the media, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said the stock limit had been reduced to 1,000 tonnes from 2,000 tonnes for traders/wholesalers.

The stock limit would be 5 tonnes instead of 10 tonnes on each retailer, 5 tonnes for each depot of a big chain retailer and a total of 1,000 tonnes for all their depots, he said.

In the case of processors, they could hold 70% of monthly installed capacity multiplied by the remaining months of 2023-24, he added.

The traders would get 30 days' time to reduce the stock to the revised limits, Mr. Chopra added.

CGO to step down: Wipro

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro said Chief Growth Officer (CGO) Stephanie Trautman will step down effective December 31 as a part of the IT major's transformation progamme.

'No central bank can currently give forward guidance'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India will refrain from providing any forward guidance on interest rates, given the prevailing uncertainty, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said at a post-policy press conference in Mumbai.

"Specifically on the rates, we have very explicitly stated we refrain from giving any forward guidance, considering the kind of uncertainty that lies ahead of us and the future looks very fickle," Mr. Das said. "New shocks can come from anywhere and hit any economy, any time. So, if that is the level of uncertainty, and our inflation is still quite away from 4%, we just cannot give any forward guidance about whether we will tighten further or we will loosen. Everything depends on the evolving situation. It is not possible in the current situation for any central bank to give forward guidance," he emphasised.

"Reaching the 4% inflation target should not just be a one-off event, it has to be durably 4% and the Monetary Policy Committee should have confidence that 'Yes, 4% has now become durable'. So, therefore, you can interpret from that when the stance will change," Mr. Das said.

Cautious optimism: There are signs that rural demand is also turning around, says RBI's Shaktikanta Das. PTI

Growth assessment

"The first half's growth estimates have beaten all estimates, including ours," Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra observed. "If you look at the high frequency data for October-November, which we use for our nowcasts, they are all very robust right now. If you just take October-November data, growth will exceed 7%. So, at the current time, the 7% real GDP growth projection for this year looks like a conservative estimate," he added.

On rural demand, Mr. Das said: "Despite a late kharif harvest in certain parts of the country, two-thirds of rabi sowing is already complete. Secondly, we have also seen two-wheeler sales post a significant turnaround. For the 42-day-festive period during October and November, their retail sales have grown 20.7%. FMCG volumes in rural segment have also shown improvement, and grew about 6.4% in the second quarter".

"Right from April onwards, the rural demand for FMCG is steadily picking up. Interestingly, the demand for MGNREGA work has declined for the first time in this financial year during November by about 4.6%. That is why we feel there are signs that rural demand is also turning around," he stressed.

Investment scenario

"Government capex continues to be very strong," Mr. Das observed. "In fact, the general government capex, undertaken by both central government as well as the State governments, have grown 36. 7% during April to October. Secondly, private capex is also showing signs of revival particularly in sectors like petroleum, steel, cement and chemicals. Capacity utilisation has now reached a kind of a threshold... it is higher than the long period average at 74%. So, it has reached a point where we can expect private investment also to start picking up. Quite a bit of investment is already taking place... reflected in the fact that fixed asset investments by listed private manufacturing companies grew 10.5% in the first half of the year.

"A number of companies are using their own internal reserves... to invest. High frequency indicators of investment, such as steel consumption, cement production, and very importantly, imports of capital goods, are showing good growth. All these indicate that the investment cycle should continue into the future," he added.

'Digital currency can halve global transaction cost'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) has the potential to reduce cross- border transaction cost to 2-3% from its current 5%, which is already lower than the global level of 8-9% of each transaction value, said Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Speaking at a FICCI event, Mr. Seth said there are currently 35 crore active users on UPI, accounting for about eight digital transactions a month per person. The annual volume is about ₹200 lakh crores, and this leads to about 4% gain to our economy.

Ajay Seth

"The next decade is likely to have a 55% contribution to capital, 35% driven by productivity gains and the balance 15% by getting more people into the work force," Mr. Seth added.

This has led to huge financial inclusion, leading to credit flowing to MSME sector, Mr. Seth said.

Tech start-up funding in India falls 72% so far in 2023, marks lowest funding in 5 years, says Tracxn

Jyoti Banthia
BENGALURU

The Indian tech start-up ecosystem witnessed a significant funding decline of 72% in 2023, making it the lowest-funded year in the last five years.

The tech start-up ecosystem has received a total funding of $7 billion so far this year, as compared with $25 billion in the previous year, according to Tracxn Geo's quarterly report. The last quarter (Q4) recorded the lowest funding of $957 million to date, marking it the lowest-funded quarter since Q3 2016.

India has dropped to the fifth position this year from fourth place in 2022 and 2021 among the highest-funded geographies globally in 2023.

Steep fall: Tech start-ups have received $7 billion so far this year compared with $25 billion in the previous year. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Late-stage funding declined by over 73% to $4.2 billion in 2023 from $15.6 billion in 2022, while the number of $100 million+ rounds recorded were only 17, dropping by 69% compared with last year.

The fintech sector has received $2.1 billion in funding so far in 2023, a decrease from $5.8 billion received during the same period last year.

Top-funded firms

PhonePe, a leading payments company, stands out as the top-funded company in the sector, securing a total of $750 million in four Series D rounds, which makes up for 38% of the funding received by the sector. Perfios, Insurancedekho, and Kreditbee are some of the other top-funded companies in the sector this year.

The retail sector has received $1.9 billion in funding, marking a 67% from 2022. Lenskart, with $600 million raised in two Series J rounds, emerges as the top-funded company in the sector this year. While enterprise applications, the third-highest funded sector in 2023, has seen saw a decline of 78% from the previous year, securing $1.56 billion in funding.

Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR continue to attract significant funding in India's tech start-up ecosystem, with LetsVenture, Accel, and Blume Ventures being the top investors supporting the growth of the Indian tech space.

Despite the overall funding slowdown, sectors such as environment tech and spacetech have garnered investor attention.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

GQG Partners boards GMR; Softbank sells 1% in Zomato

Janaki Krishnan
MUMBAI

GQG Partners has acquired a significant stake in GMR Airports Infrastructure through block deals. Exchange data showed that the investment company has acquired about 4.7% stake in the airport operator for about ₹1.672 crore at a price of ₹59.09 a share.

More than 12% of equity had changed hands on the bourses in three major block deals at prices ranging from ₹58.2 to ₹59.25. Other buyers included the Nomura India Investment Fund and the Stichting depositary APG Emerging Markets Equity Pool.

UK-based foreign portfolio investor ASN Investments sold its entire 7.27% stake in GMR Airports, selling close to 44 crore shares, an exchange filing said. Other FPIs who exited the stock included A/D Investors Fund and Varanium India Opportunity Fund.

GMR Airports Infra, which runs airports at Delhi, Hyderabad, Goa and two airports in Indonesia and the Philippines, has seen a 26% rise in traffic in the first eight months of FY24, handling 6.9 crore passengers. In FY23, it had handled 10 crore passengers. Its stock has appreciated 73% over the past year.

In another major transaction, Softbank sold 1.1% stake in food aggregator and delivery firm Zomato. Softbank's group company, SVF Growth Singapore Pte, sold 9.4 crore shares at ₹120.50 each for a value of ₹1,132.7 crore. The Japanese investment firm had a 2.17% stake in Zomato.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

NOT THE BEST

ODI World Cup final pitch termed 'average' by ICC

K.R. DEEPAK

The pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, which hosted the ODI World Cup final between India and Australia on November 19, has been rated "average" by the International Cricket Council (ICC). ICC match referee and former Zimbabwe batter Andy Pycroft, however, rated the outfield as "very good".

INJURED

England withdraws Emma Lamb from one-off Test against India

GETTY IMAGES

England batting all-rounder Emma Lamb was on Friday withdrawn from the upcoming one-off Test against India to be played here from December 14-17. The 25-year-old has suffered a back injury and will be returning home to consult with a spinal surgeon, according to England Cricket.

ENDING SPECULATION

Masters champ Jon Rahm confirms jump to LIV Golf

AP

Reigning Masters champion Jon Rahm is making the jump to LIV golf. "As you can see now it's official, this is me finally saying after all the rumours... I have officially joined LIV Golf," said the Spaniard, ending speculation that Rahm who had pledged his loyalty to the PGA Tour would sign for the Saudi-backed circuit.

MATCH-WINNER

Naveen does the star turn for Dabang against Bulls

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dabang Delhi K.C. put on a masterclass to defeat Bengaluru Bulls 38-31 in the Pro Kabaddi League in Bengaluru on Friday. Skipper Naveen led the charge with 13 points while Ashu Malik scored nine points. It was neck-and-neck in the initial stages before Dabang broke free. In another match, Puneri Paltan beat U Mumba 43-32.

Athapaththu and Wyatt headline field as the players go under the hammer

The Sri Lankan and the Englishwoman found no buyers in the first auction, but things are expected to be different this time around

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

In this city of dreams on Saturday, some will be fulfilled and many shattered.

The auction for Season 2 of the Women's Premier League kicks off at 3 p.m. at Grand Hyatt. Players from around the world will be following it keenly. It is their big chance.

30 slots

Only 30 slots in all – including nine foreigners – are available, from a list of 165, for the five teams.

It may only be a mini auction, but for teams like Gujarat Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore, it is a mega opportunity to get their combinations right after the disappointment in the inaugural WPL.

After releasing 11 of its players, Giants have the biggest purse (₹5.95 crore), followed by UP Warriorz (4 crore), RCB (3.35 crore), Delhi Capitals (2.25 crore) and Mumbai Indians (2.1 crore). An additional ₹1.5 crore has been made available to each of them.

MI and DC, the champion and runner-up, needn't get as excited as the others, having kept most of their main players. They would be keen to build on their settled squads, with an eye on the future, while also looking for a steal or two (UP Warriorz had got Alyssa Healy for ₹70 lakh last year).

The Aussie superstar going for such a low price wasn't the only surprise, though. Chamari Athapaththu and Danni Wyatt, both game-changing batters, found no buyers, but this time around, paddles should go up when their names are announced by the auctioneer Mallika Sagar. Wyatt is very much in the city and is very much in form, too. She had scored a 47-ball 75 for England in its 38-run victory against India in the first T20I at the Wankhede on Wednesday.

As for Athapaththu, she has been in the form of her life, and was the best player in the recently concluded Women's Big Bash League in Australia.

Evoking interest

More Australian women, like Kim Garth, Annabel Sutherland and Amanda-Jade Wellington, too, could evoke interest. So would West Indian Deandra Dottin, who was released ahead of the league by Giants in strange circumstances, and South African Shabnim Ismail.

There are, of course, far more Indians in the fray, including Devika Vaidya, S. Meghana, Meghna Singh and Sushma Verma among the capped players, and Mannat Kashyap and Uma Chetry among the uncapped.

Then there are also cricketers from the associate nations, like Sarah Bryce and Tara Norris, who was one of the stories of the first WPL.

Auction Guide

All eyes are on the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction set to take place in Mumbai on Saturday.

- As many as 165 players (104 Indians, 61 overseas) have registered for the auction. There are 15 players from associate nations in the fray
- A total of 30 slots are available for the five teams, nine of them for overseas players
- Gujarat Giants heads into the auction with the biggest purse (₹ 5.95 crore) while defending champion Mumbai Indians has the smallest purse (2.1 crore)

PURSE REMAINING

Delhi Capitals	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai Indians	RCB	UP Warriorz
2.25 crores	5.95 crores	2.1 crores	3.35 crores	4 crores
Slots available: 3	Slots available: 10	Slots available: 5	Slots available: 7	Slots available: 5

RETAINED PLAYERS

Delhi Capitals: Alice Capsey*, Arundhati Reddy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Jess Jonassen*, Laura Harris*, Marizanne Kapp*, Meg Lanning*, Minnu Mani, Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Shafali Verma, Shikha Pandey, Sneha Deepthi, Taniyaa Bhatia, Titas Sadhu

Gujarat Giants: Ashleigh Gardner*, Beth Mooney*, D. Hemalatha, Harleen Deol, Laura Wolvaardt*, Shabnam Shakil, Sneh Rana, Tanuja Kanwar

Mumbai Indians: Amanjot Kaur, Amelia Kerr*, Chloe Tryon*, Harmanpreet Kaur, Hayley Matthews*, Humaira Kazi, Issy Wong*, Jintimani Kalita, Nat Sciver-Brunt*, Pooja Vastrakar, Priyanka Bala, Saika Ishaque, Yastika Bhatia

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Asha Shobana, Disha Kasat, Ellyse Perry*, Heather Knight*, Indrani Roy, Kanika Ahuja, Renuka Singh, Richa Ghosh, Shreyanka Patil, Smriti Mandhana, Sophie Devine*

UP Warriorz: Alyssa Healy*, Anjali Sarvani, Deepti Sharma, Grace Harris*, Kiran Navgire, Lauren Bell*, Laxmi Yadav, Parshavi Chopra, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, S. Yashasri, Shweta Sehrawat, Sophie Ecclestone*, Tahlia McGrath*

* Overseas players | The auction, which will begin at 3 p.m., will be beamed live on Sports18 and streamed live on the Jio Cinema app

'Auction will not be a distraction for us'

Top priority: Harmanpreet says her team's focus will be on the second T20I. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Five England T20I squad members will be in a quandary in the lead-up to Saturday's second T20I against India. While preparing for the game starting at 7 p.m., the girls will be hoping for a bid from any of the five teams at the Women's Premier League auction.

Amy Jones, the seasoned wicketkeeper-batter who is one of the five, stressed the experience from the first WPL auction earlier in the year will help them keep their focus on the game.

"We had a similar situation in the T20 World Cup earlier this year. It was a completely new experience for us as a group. We did sit down and try and address issues that might come off it," Jones said on Friday, the eve of the second T20I.

"It was always going to be a little bit of a distraction last year. I am just hoping that this year, it will be a bit more relaxed and a lot simpler."

Besides Jones, who made a strong case for her signing with a nine-ball 23 cameo at the death on Wednesday, Mala Bouchier, Danielle Wyatt, Danielle Gibson and Bess Heath will hope to go under the hammer on Saturday. With only nine overseas slots open and a few of England veterans who have been rested for the series also in the auction pool, it will be interesting to see whether Jones and her mates attract a bid.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, meanwhile, will hardly have any issues to deal with. From the T20I squad, only Mannat Kashyap is in the auction pool.

"Almost all the girls are already in some team or the other, so I don't think the auction is going to be a distraction for us tomorrow," Harmanpreet said.

Women in Blue need to strike back to keep the series alive

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The women's cricket fraternity will have its eyes fixed on the proceedings at a suburban hotel in the Maximum City, with the Women's Premier League player auction. But for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co., more than the proceedings at the auction enclosure, the focus will be at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday evening.

Trailing the three-match T20I series after Wednesday's loss in the opening fixture, India's women will be eager to keep the series alive going into Sunday's decider and keep its quest of winning its first bilateral series against India in the shortest format.

Not once has India beaten England in a bilateral T20I series (at least two games) so far. And the task will be humongous come Saturday.

England appears a well-rounded unit, with almost all the top players having hit top gear right from the word go. India will have to hope for Harmanpreet and Smriti Mandhana to fire with the willow in order to support an inexperienced spin pack.

Silver lining: Shafali's knock was the lone bright spot for India in the opening T20I. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Titas Sadhu, the young pacer, has recovered from an illness that forced her to be not considered for the series-opener. The star of the Asian Games gold-medal winning campaign had a long stint in the nets, both with the ball and the bat on Friday afternoon. Later on, Harmanpreet was optimistic about Titas' availability should she be cleared by the medical staff on the match-day.

While India's batters appeared rusty and bowlers suffered Nat Sciver-Brunt and Danni Wyatt's wrath, the one area that India cannot afford to slip up is fielding.

Wednesday's fielding effort was mediocre, to say the least. It didn't come as a surprise then that promising offie Shreyanka Patil along with veteran Deepti Sharma did a long drill of return catches with head coach Amol Muzumdar.

With hardly any of the India squad members figuring in the auction, Saturday will offer an ideal opportunity for the team women to produce a match-winning performance.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, and Minnu Mani.

England: Heather Knight (Capt.), Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Mahika Gaur, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath (wk), Amy Jones (wk), Freya Kemp, Nat Sciver-Brunt, and Danielle Wyatt.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Sicoma cruises past Defenders, marches into the semifinals

VOLLEYBALL

Netra. V
BENGALURU

Defending champion Sir Sicoma Perugia put on a dominant show to beat Ahmedabad Defenders 25-18, 25-19, 25-11 in a Pool A match and reach the semifinals of the men's Volleyball Club World Championships at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

Defenders' L.M. Manoj scored the first point with a powerful spike. After restoring parity, the Italian side ensured that the hosts did not have it easy by targeting empty spaces to score consecutive points. Angamuthu Ramaswamy's spike reduced the margin to 10-14, but the combination of Jesus Herrera Jaime and Sebastian Sole proved too tough to handle for the Ahmedabad defence.

Though the Indian outfit managed to save a set point, it couldn't stop Sicoma to take the set 25-18.

Though Herrera and Oleh Plotnytskyi both had a brace on their left leg, it did not stop them from creating havoc on Ahmedabad's attack and defence. Defenders, however, redeemed themselves in the second set with some tactically aimed shots set by captain Muthusamy Appavu. The Italian side, too, contributed to Defenders' tally by hitting wide several times. However, the Wilfredo Leon-led side won the set 25-19, making it look like a cakewalk.

Ahmedabad's lacklustre third set made it easy for Sicoma to probe on the openings as the Indian team's campaign came to an end. The Italian powerhouse rolled through the third set 25-11 without breaking sweat.

Sicoma will face Turkiye's Halkbank Spor Kulubu in the semifinals. Earlier in the day, the Turkish team shocked four-time CWC winner Sada Cruzeiro Volei 26-24, 25-18, 28-26.

The results:

Sir Sicoma Perugia bt Ahmedabad Defenders 25-18, 25-19, 25-11; Halkbank Spor Kulubu bt Sada Cruzeiro Volei 26-24, 25-18, 28-26.

Thunderbolt: Skipper Abdel-Aziz Nimir was in smashing form for Halkbank. SUDHAKARA JAIN

INBRIEF

Skipper Raza excels as Zimbabwe wins thriller

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza starred with ball (three for 28) and then with the bat (65) as Zimbabwe beat Ireland by one wicket in a thrilling opening Twenty 20 international of a three-match series in Harare on Thursday.

The scores: Ireland 147/8 in 20 overs (Balbirnie 32, Raza 3/28) lost to Zimbabwe 148/9 in 20 overs (Raza 65).

Phillips to New Zealand's rescue against Bangladesh

Glenn Phillips hit an aggressive 87 to give New Zealand an eight-run lead as Bangladesh bowled the tourists out for 180 on day three of the rain-hit second Test on Friday.

The scores: Bangladesh 172 & 38/2 in 8 overs vs. New Zealand 180 in 37.1 overs (Phillips 87, Mehidy 3/53, Taijul 3/64).

India bests Korea in classification match

India came from behind to outwit Korea 3-1 in the 9th-12th place classification match of the Junior women's hockey World Cup in Santiago. Ropni Kumari (23rd minute), Mumtaz Khan (44th) and Annu (46th) scored for India, while Jiyun Choi (19th) found the net for Korea on Thursday.

The result: India 3 (Ropni 23, Mumtaz 44, Annu 46) bt Korea 1 (Jiyun 19).

Dheeraj, Dhruv bowl well for Karnataka against U.P.

Dheeraj Gowda (4/37) and Dhruv Prabhakar (4/63) helped Karnataka bowl out Uttar Pradesh for 239 in 77 overs in its first innings on the first day of the four day Cooch Behar U-19 match, at the SDNR Wadayar grounds, in Mysuru on Friday. At close of play, Karnataka was 29/2 in 11 overs.

The scores: Uttar Pradesh 239 in 77 overs (Yashu Pradhan 54, Sushant 38, Manav Sindhu 33, Kavya Teotia 33, Dheeraj Gowda 4/37, Dhruv Prabhakar 4/63) vsy. Karnataka 29/2 in 11 overs.

National wrestling in Jaipur from January 2

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)-appointed ad-hoc committee, which runs the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), on Friday announced that the National championships 2023 will be held in Jaipur from January 2 to 5. Railways Sports Promotion Board will host the event in which competitions will be held in 10 weight classes each in men's freestyle, Greco Roman and women's styles.

Anil Dhupar and Sunder Iyer to continue in ITF committees

The secretary general of the All India Tennis Association (AITA), Anil Dhupar, has been reappointed to the ITF juniors committee for the 2024-25 season. The joint-secretary of AITA, Sunder Iyer, continues to be part of the ITF coaches commission. The AITA has expressed its happiness about the two officials representing the country in the international federation.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 4, FanCode, 9 a.m.

Zimbabwe vs Ireland: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 4.30 p.m.

Volleyball: Men's Club World Championships, Sony Sports Ten 1, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 & 8.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

India Women vs England Women: 2nd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

West Indies vs England: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 11 p.m.

West Ham punishes wasteful Tottenham, while a smarting Everton stuns Newcastle

Spurs have now dropped to fifth in the table; Toffees pull themselves out of relegation quagmire with late flurry of goals

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Early-season Premier League pacesetter Tottenham slipped to a fourth defeat in five matches on Wednesday, going down 2-1 to West Ham after throwing away the lead yet again.

Ange Postecoglou's team raced out of the blocks at the start of the campaign, playing a dazzling brand of attacking football and winning eight of its first 10 games to top the table.

But its momentum has slowed dramatically in recent weeks and it now finds itself nine points behind leader and bitter London rival Arsenal.

Spurs came into the match in buoyant mood after an enthralling 3-3 weekend draw against champion Manchester City and it started in style at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Stirring comeback: Ward-Prowse pokes in West Ham's winner into an empty Tottenham goal.
GETTY IMAGES

Cristian Romero put the home side ahead early, just reward for its dominance, but the visitors equalised through Jarrod Bowen shortly after half-time and James Ward-Prowse completed the turnaround in the 74th minute.

Delighted West Ham manager David Moyes said his side had the ability to give top sides a "bloody nose".

"Huge performance because of the quality of the opposition," he told Amazon Prime. "We were up against it tonight. We had to dig in. Thankfully we just about scraped it.

"The quality Tottenham showed in the first half, I don't know if we touched the ball for eight or nine minutes."

Everton struck three times in the final 11 minutes to climb out of the relegation zone despite a 10-point deduction as Newcastle was stunned 3-0 at Goodison Park.

Dwight McNeil, Abdoulaye Doucoure and Beto scored the goals as the Toffees' fine form continued despite the blow of being hit by the toughest sporting sanction dished out in Premier League history for breaches of financial rules.

Uncharacteristic errors

Newcastle was made to pay for two uncharacteristic errors by England international Kieran Trippier as fatigue hit the injury ravaged Magpies in the closing stages.

McNeil pounced to smash into the top corner 11 minutes from time before Doucoure secured a fifth win in seven games for Everton.

Substitute Beto rounded off victory with his first Premier League goal in stoppage time.

The results: Everton 3 (McNeil 79, Doucoure 86, Beto 90+6) bt Newcastle 0; Tottenham 1 (Romero 11) lost to West Ham 2 (Bowen 52, Ward-Prowse 74).

Malvika in semifinals

GUWAHATI MASTERS

Sports Bureau
GUWAHATI

India's Malvika Bansod defeated Letshanaa Karupathevan of Malaysia 21-12, 21-16 in the women's quarterfinals of the Guwahati Masters BWF Super 100 International badminton tournament on Friday.

The results (Quarterfinals):
Men: Cheam June Wei (Mas) bt Kartikey Gulshan Kumar 14-21, 21-12, 21-9; Yohanes Saut Marcellyno (Ina) bt Jia Heng Jason Teh (Sin) 20-22, 21-18, 21-15; Alvi Wijaya Chairullah (Ina) bt Alex Lanier (Fra) 19-21, 21-11, 21-17; Justin Hoh (Mas) bt Alwi Farhan (Ina) 17-21, 22-20, 21-17.

Women: Lalinrat Chaiwan (Tha) bt Sung Shuo Yun (Tpe) 21-10, 16-21, 21-16; Malvika Bansod bt Letshanaa Karupathevan (Mas) 21-12, 21-16; Wen Chi Hsu (Tpe) bt Lin Sih Yun (Tpe) 21-13, 21-13; Line Christophersen (Den) bt Chiu Pin-Chian (Tpe) 21-19, 21-11.

Victoria Punch claims the Chatrapathi Plate

BENGALURU: Mr. Ananda C's Victoria Punch (Suraj Narredu up), won the Chatrapathi Plate, the main event of the races held here on Friday (Dec 8). The winner is trained by Irfan Ghatala.

1. HAVERI PLATE (DIV. II): INDIAN BLUES (Antony) 1, Glow In The Dark (G. Vivek) 2, Twinkle Feet (Srinath) 3 and Golden Gallery (P. Surya) 4. Not run: Agera. 1-3/4, 1/2 and 4-1/2. 1m, 26.82s. ₹25 (w), 12, 11 and 10 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 30, FP: 57, Q: 31, Trinella: 97, Exacta: 245. Favourite: Twinkle Feet. Owners: Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar & Mr. Dean Stephens. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2. RAMANAGARA STAKES: ISABELLE (L.A. Rozario) 1, Bold Act (Suraj) 2, Chililady (Antony) 3 and Solid Power (Rayan) 4. Hd, Snk and Lnk. 1m, 14.63s. ₹26 (w), 10, 11 and 12 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 38, FP: 47, Q: 29, Trinella: 78, Exacta: 228. Favourite: Chililady. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

3. BELGAUM PLATE: TOP DANCER (Vivek) 1, Sea Blush (Hindu S) 2, Aircraft (Srinath) 3 and Measure Of Time (Salman Khan) 4. 2-1/4, 2-1/2 and 4-3/4. 1m, 38.89s. ₹98 (w), 18, 16 and 14 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 40, FP: 510, Q: 421, Trinella: 3,223, Exacta: 61,664 (c/o). Favourite: Own Legacy. Owner: Dr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

4. CHATRAPATHI PLATE: VICTORIA PUNCH (Suraj) 1, Shubankar (Srinath) 2, Ruling Dynasty (Antony) 3 and Fearless Joey (Salman Khan) 4. 1, 2-3/4 and Lnk. 1m, 52.65s. ₹23 (w), 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 32, FP: 97, Q: 48, Trinella: 111. Favourite: Ruling Dynasty. Owner: Mr. Ananda C. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

5. DHARMAPRAKASHA L.S. VENKAJI RAO MEMORIAL TROPHY: PNEUMA (S. Saqlain) 1, Fondness Of You (Suraj) 2, Nyaya (Shreyas S) 3 and Leather Back (G. Vivek) 4. 1-3/4, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 12.57s. ₹24 (w), 14, 16 and 20 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 72, FP: 117, Q: 50, Trinella: 505, Exacta: 2,528. Favourite: Pneuma. Owner: M/s. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. HAVERI PLATE (DIV I): EXCELLENT RAY (Suraj) 1, Maroon (P. Trevor) 2, Chisox (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Lady Invictus (Kirtish B) 4. Not run: Peluche. 6-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1. 1m, 27.37s. ₹16 (w), 11, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 21, THP: 34, FP: 23, Q: 14, Trinella: 73, Exacta: 307. Favourite: Excellent Ray. Owner: Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

7. BIDADI STAKES: SOUTHERNARISTOCRAT (Antony) 1, Star Citizen (Hindu S) 2, Marco Polo (Saddam H) 3 and Mega Success (Vivek) 4. 3-1/4, 3/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 27.92s. ₹22 (w), 13, 18 and 65 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 145, FP: 79, Q: 63, Trinella: 2,477, Exacta: 12,276. Favourite: Southernaristocrat. Owner: Mr. Srinivasa M. Trainer: Azhar Ali.7

Jackpot: ₹5,594 (13 tkts.); Runner-up: 944 (33 tkts.); Treble (i); 642 (14 tkts.); (ii): 100 (158 tkts.).

Advani to take on Malkeet in the 6-Red snooker semifinals

CUE SPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Pankaj Advani is on course to regain the 6-Red snooker crown in the 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships, as the 26-time IBSF world champion moved into the semifinals on Friday with a 6-4 win over his Petroleum Sports Promotion Board teammate Brijesh Damani.

In Saturday's semifinals, Advani, runner-up last year, will meet Malkeet Singh (RSPB), who moved into the last-four stage with a 6-3 win over Younis Nazir Kuchey (J&K).

Aditya Mehta (PSPB) will take on E Pandurangaiah (RSPB) in the second semifinal. The final is scheduled to be played at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Focused: Advani is all concentration during the quarterfinals.

The results: Quarterfinals: E. Pandurangaiah (RSPB) bt Md Hussain Khan (RSPB) 6-3 (9-50, 34-15, 59-8, 26-45, 36-41, 42-5, 33-17, 43-21, 67-21); Malkeet Singh (RSPB) bt Younis Nazir Kuchey (J&K) 6-3 (35-45, 49-5, 20-38, 59-4, 39-38, 38-32, 4-45, 46-10, 44-38).

Aditya Mehta (PSPB) bt Muddasir Ashiq (J&K) 6-4 (16-50, 20-42, 43-14, 0-54, 43-32, 1-44, 67-0, 71-0, 36-23, 46-7); Pankaj Advani (PSPB) bt Brijesh Damani (PSPB) 6-4 (1-60, 37-12, 32-11, 51-7, 47-14, 41-24, 5-39, 5-43, 0-43, 75-0).

Pre-quarterfinals: Mehta bt Anurag Giri (MP) 5-1; Muddasir bt Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) 5-4; Pandurangaiah bt Adarsh Verma (WB) 5-4; Hussain bt Yogesh Kumar (Kar) 4-3.

Advani bt Ketan Chawla (MP) 5-1; Damani bt Divya Sharma (Har) 5-3; Malkeet bt K. Rakesh (TN) 5-2; Kuchey bt Rayaan Razmi (Mah) 5-2.

Anantjeet, Raiza top the skeet trials

The top three: Gurjoat, topper Anantjeet and Mohd. Sheeraz.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NATIONAL SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asian Games silver medallist Anantjeet Singh Naruka defeated Mohd. Sheeraz Sheikh 58-56 for the top spot in men's skeet in the National shooting selection trials here on Friday.

Anantjeet had topped qualification with 121 along with Zorawar Singh Bedi who eventually finished fifth. Gurjoat Khangura was third ahead of Smit Singh.

Olympian Angad Vir Singh Bajwa was eighth with 119. He missed qualifying for the final in the shoot-off.

Raiza Dhillon was brilliant in women's skeet as she first topped qualification with 122 out of 125, and then beat World Cup medallist Ganemat Sekhon 58-54 for the top spot.

Maheshwari Chauhan placed third ahead of Yashasvi Rathore, Areeba Khan and Vanshika Tiwari.

Other leading women shooters, Karttiki Singh Shaktawat (115), Parinaaz Dhaliwal (115) and Darshna Rathore (114) finished seventh to ninth in that order.

The results:
Skeet: Men: 1. Anantjeet Singh Naruka 58 (121); 2. Mohd. Sheeraz Sheikh 56 (119); 3. Gurjoat Singh Khangura 45 (119).
Women: 1. Raiza Dhillon 58 (122); 2. Ganemat Sekhon 54(120); 3. Maheshwari Chauhan 43 (118).

Om Prakash and Rahil share the lead after day two

GOLF

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Order of Merit leader Om Prakash Chouhan and Rahil Gangjee were the joint clubhouse leaders with an aggregate of five-under 139 after the second day's play in the S.S.P. Chawrasia Invitational event at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) here on Friday.

Om Prakash, who had three birdies and an eagle on the 15th as against three bogeys, carded a three-under 69 in the second round in overcast conditions.

The Kolkata-bred Gangjee, who was flawless between 10th and 18th holes, carded four birdies before being distracted by a pain in his right calf, carded 70.

When the first round, which was interrupted by rain on the opening day, concluded, Rahil led with 69, followed by Om Prakash on 70.

Syed Saqib Ahmed (74, 67) was third with a total of three-under 141.

Only 59 players could complete the second round as play was suspended due to fading light.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Double delight: Ishaan and Aahan, winners at the at the KSLTA Asians U-14 tennis tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ishaan & Aahan shine

Ishaan Yadlapalli and A. Aahan emerged the boys' and girls' singles champions respectively at the KSLTA Asians U-14 tennis tournament on Friday. The two made their tournament sweeter by also clinching the respective doubles titles.

The results (finals): Singles: Boys: Ishaan Yadlapalli bt S. Suvarna 6-4, 6-4; **Girls:** A. Aahan bt K. Padmakumar 6-2, 6-0.
Doubles: Boys: Ishaan & Aahaan bt A. Palanisamy & Ishaan Sudharshan 6-1, 6-4; **Girls:** Aahan & Padmakumar bt Shreeniti Chowdhury & Jahnavi Tammineedi 6-3, 6-2.

KGA beats BGC

The Karnataka Golf Association beat Bangalore Golf Club in the 25th edition of the annual KGA vs BGC Inter-Club Challenge Trophy that concluded on Friday at the KGA golf course. KGA finished on 11.5 points, five points ahead of its rival. In the 3rd edition of the KGA vs BGC Inter-Club Women's Challenge, the KGA team won 8-1. In the Fellowship event, KGA beat BGC, 11 points to seven.

Frank Anthony PS routs Govt. HS (Pottery Town)

The Frank Anthony Public School thrashed Govt. High School, Pottery Town 7-0 to enter the semifinals of the Parikrma Champions League football tournament on Friday.

Other results:
The Yenepoya (Mangalore) bt Legacy 3-0; C.T. HSS bt Greenwood High 9-0; Step by Step bt Parikrma 4-3 (4-3 on penalties; goalless at full-time).

Vishesh Bhriguvanshi powers Delhi past Services

NATIONAL BASKETBALL

Sports Bureau
LUDHIANA

Vishesh Bhriguvanshi scored 32 points to power Delhi past Services 83-70 in the men's quarterfinals of the 73rd National basketball championship at the Guru Nanak Dev Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

The results (quarterfinals):
Men: Delhi 83 (Vishesh Bhriguvanshi 32, Ravi Bhardwaj 18, Joginder Singh 17) bt Services 70 (Sahil 18, Rishab Mathur 17, Nikhil Kumar 13).
Railways 91 (Sahil 16, Manik 15) bt Rajasthan 61 (Devender Choudary 19, Mahaveer 12).
Tamil Nadu 95 (R Karthik 16, Muin Bek 14, Antharaj 13, B Soorya 10) bt Madhya Pradesh 32 (Harsh Singh 11, Shreyash Raj 11).
Women: Railways 89 (Poonam Chaturvedi 13, Vaishnavi Yadav 12, Sruthi Aravind 10) bt Uttar Pradesh 27.
Tamil Nadu 81 (K Sathya 26, Harima Sundari 22, S Sobhana 10) bt Delhi 55 (Raspreet Sidhu 26, Garima Gosain 19).
Karnataka 60 (Sanjana Ramesh 22, Lopamudra 15, Varsha Nandini 10) bt Punjab 45 (Karanveer Kaur 11, Manmeet Kaur 11).
Kerala 79 (Sreekala R 17, Garima Merlin Varghese 14 Amrutha VK 12) bt Chhattisgarh 44 (Riya Pramod 16).

Maharashtra will be wary of in-form Kerala

Samson's men had toppled defending champion Saurashtra in their campaign opener; Kedar's boys have blended power-hitting with consistency

HAZARE TROPHY

Dhruva Prasad
RAJKOT

Kerala and Maharashtra's contrasting journeys in the group stage that led them to an identical 20 points from seven matches will be on collision course when the two sides meet in the pre-quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Saturday.

While Kerala's struggles with the bat came to the fore during its 18-run defeat to Railways – that cost Sanju Samson & Co. a berth in the quarterfinals, Maharashtra's league campaign was bookended by scores of 355 and 427 – the latter being the highest of the tournament thus far.

Samson's valiant 128 in an unsuccessful 256-run chase against Railways epitomised Kerala's predicament, as no batter, barring the skipper, has tallied 200 runs in the competition.

Gameplan: Maharashtra players will need to put their heads together against Kerala. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Shreyas Gopal's 53 in the same match was symptomatic of Kerala's reliance on the lower middle-order, which also comprises Abdul Basith and Akhil Scaria.

That Sachin Baby and Vishnu Vinod have accumulated less than 200 runs despite scoring a century each early in the tournament encapsulates Kerala's middle-order blues, while Rohan Kunnummal and Mohammed Azharuddeen's indifferent form at the top has compounded its woes.

Pacers Scaria and Akhin Sathar, however, have been the toast of Kerala's bowling with 13 and 10 wickets, respectively, while veteran quick Basil Thampi has chipped in with eight scalps. But on a traditionally batter-friendly surface at Rajkot, they will face their sternest test so far.

Maharashtra, led by Kedar Jadhav, has tided over the absence of Ruturaj Gaikwad, on national duty, and Rahul Tripathi, who has moved to Goa.

Opener Om Bhonsale has scored 389 runs in seven matches in his debut senior-level campaign, while Ankeet Bawane, Maharashtra's top-scorer with 491 runs, and Azim Kazi have been the spine of the middle-order.

Maharashtra has blended power-hitting with stunning consistency, a balance sides struggled to grapple with in 50-over cricket, as six of its top seven batters boast a strike-rate of more than 100 while averaging in excess of 50.

Maharashtra, runner-up in 2022, however, has not faced the most formidable of opponents in the group stage and will have reason to be wary against Kerala, which toppled defending champion Saurashtra in its campaign opener.

The winner of this contest will face Haryana in the quarterfinal on Monday, while Bengal and Gujarat will fight it out in the other pre-quarterfinal on Saturday for a chance to play Rajasthan in the last-eight stage.

The knockouts schedule:
December 9:
Pre-quarterfinals: Bengal vs Gujarat (PQF 1); Kerala vs Maharashtra (PQF 2).
December 11: Quarterfinals: Haryana vs Winner of PQF 1 (QF 1); Rajasthan vs Winner of PQF 2 (QF 2); Vidarbha vs Karnataka (QF 3); Mumbai vs Tamil Nadu (QF 4).
Semifinals: December 13: Winner of QF 1 vs Winner of QF 4;
December 14: Winner of QF 2 vs Winner of QF 3.
Final: December 16.

All-round show by Arshin

Sports Bureau

Arshin Kulkarni's all-round performance powered India to a seven-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the Asia Cup under-19 tournament in Dubai on Friday. Arshin was ably supported by fellow medium-pacer Raj Limbani with the ball and Musheer Khan with the bat. Afghanistan could only muster 173 in its 50 overs, a totaql the Indian colts chased down in the 38th over.

The scores: Afghanistan 173 in 50 overs (Jamshid Zadran 43, Raj Limbani 3/46, Arshin Kulkarni 3/29) lost to India 174/3 in 37.3 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 70, Musheer Khan 48 n.o.).

Bengaluru FC suffers a humiliating loss to MCFC

ISL-10

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC's cup of woes overflowed at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday after a humiliating 0-4 loss – the heaviest at home in its history – to Mumbai City FC.

Simon Grayson's men now lie ninth in the table on seven points, with just a solitary win from nine outings.

So bad was the performance that the moment Mumbai City scored its fourth goal, club owner Parth Jindal raged on X: "This isn't Bengaluru FC – changes are coming – we need to get back to where we belong – this is embarrassing. I'm sorry – this is beyond me – with this squad to play like this is not BFC."

Impulsive it may have been, but the view wasn't far from the truth. Mumbai City steamrolled BFC for much of the match, and the opener from Abdenasser El Khayati on 11 minutes was its first evidence. A wonderful through ball from Rahul Bheke was collected superbly by Greg Stewart, who in turn squared the ball for El Khayati for an easy tap in.

On the half-hour mark, the visitors doubled the advantage when Akash Mishra volleyed home from just outside the penalty area after BFC defender Robin Yadav botched a clearance.

BFC's only real chance came in the 23rd minute, but Javi Hernandez's curled strike aimed at the top corner was tipped over by goalie Phurba Lachenpa.

If the 7000-odd faithful at the ground had hoped for BFC players to clear their heads and come back rejuvenated, it wasn't to be.

The hosts only muddled things further by conceding two penalties in four minutes, both of which were converted.

> This isn't Bengaluru FC – changes are coming – we need to get back to where we belong – this is embarrassing
>
> **PARTH JINDAL (ON X)**
> BFC owner

Nearly half an hour was left but Mumbai City, intriguingly, did not plunge the dagger further. And BFC should be thankful for that.

The result: Bengaluru FC 0 lost to Mumbai City FC 4 (El Khayati 11, Mishra 30, Pereyra Diaz 57-pen, Chhangte 61-pen).

On the prowl: Mumbai's might proved too much for Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Graduation Ceremony 2023 - A momentous occasion unfolded at the AIMS Institutes campus in the Peenya Industrial Area

This event marked a significant milestone as 340 Post Graduate students from MBA, MCA, M. Com, M.Com. FA, and MSW streams embarked in their journey as professionals, ready for diverse career paths in functions such as HR, Marketing, Finance, and more. Notably, a few courageous graduates are poised to venture into the entrepreneurial realm, reflecting the spirit of innovation and enterprise. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Kiran Reddy, the Founder-Principal of AIMS Institutes and a distinguished woman entrepreneur who established the institution in 1994, was graced by Chief Guest Mr. V Saravanan, AGM at HAL, Bengaluru, and Guest of Honour Mr. Prashant Upadhyay, VP at Axis Bank, Bengaluru. Both distinguished guests conferred degrees upon the deserving graduates, symbolizing the culmination of their academic journey. The delegates gave their speeches inspiring the students and encouraging students to seize opportunities and achieve their goals, emphasized the importance of taking decisive actions in the face of challenges. As the ceremony concluded, the graduates stepped into the next phase of their lives, armed with knowledge, determination, and the guidance they received from the esteemed faculty at AIMS Institutes.

Vibrations 2023 at Dayananda Sagar Institution

Dayananda Sagar Institutions celebrated 'Vibrations'. The theme 'Into the Wild' attracted numerous participants from across the college. It featured various celebrities, including Gurukiran, Kiran Raj, and Chaithra Achar, who graced the occasion as chief guests. Events were organized for both students and faculty members. Shri Galiswamy, Secretary, Dr. B.G. Prasad, Principal of DSCE, Dr. Aswatha, Dean, DSCE, and Mrs. Pooja Baliga, Cultural Executive, DSI were the individuals who made this event happen and ensured its smooth execution.

Clinical Training on 'Capability Enhancement Program on Handling Emergencies

Nitte Usha Institute of Nursing Sciences in collaboration with Justice KS Hedge Charitable Hospital organized the ICMR-funded Clinical Training on 'Handling Emergencies'. This program is geared towards training 150 staff nurses in and around Mangaluru. Mrs Cleeta Anline Pinto organizing secretary of the Clinical Training program welcomed the gathering. The Chief Guest Dr. B Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, VP ISR & CRL Nitte Deemed to be University congratulated the nursing college for having initiated such programs and emphasized that nurses to practice and develop confidence in carrying out emergencies effectively. Dr. Fatima Dsilva, Principal of the College of Nursing congratulated Mrs. Cleeta Pinto and all the Resource persons for executing the training effectively. The Resource persons namely Dr Sripada Mehendale, Dr Basavaraj, Mrs. Latha S, Dr. Nalini M, Mr. Sukesh, Mrs Sarita Fernandes, Dr. Suchitra BS, and Mr. Chethan were present during the program. The program ended with a thanksgiving note by Dr. Suchithra B S. The program was compered by Mrs. Reeta Dcosta.

The CSA Students of Kristu Jayanthi College provide Warmth to Homeless with Clothing and Blanket Drive

In a heartwarming display of compassion and community spirit, a group of college students in the city has successfully raised funds through an integrity stall to distribute food, clothes, and blankets to the homeless in the city. The CSA student volunteers of Kristu Jayanti College were able to render support to more than 100 homeless families and individuals in the city through the drive. The creative initiatives by these students of Kristu Jayanti College bring much-needed warmth to those in need, offering comfort during their difficult times.

International Conference on Advanced Materials in Engineering Sciences (ICAMES-2023) held at Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

The conference was organized in collaboration with the Indian Ceramic Society, Karnataka Chapter, and the renowned academic publisher Taylor Francis. The conference's primary goal was to bring together eminent academic scientists, businesspeople, and researchers to exchange experiences and research findings on all facets of materials science, with a focus on nanomaterials. The function's chief guest, Professor B L V Prasad, and guest of honor, Professor Mahesh Narayan, stressed the value of materials in daily life. All of the conference's dignitaries and delegates were greeted by Principal Dr. N V R Naidu. Dr G M Madhu, Organising Secretary of the conference briefed about the conference, Five plenary talks by distinguished scientists were given on the first day of the conference. On the second day, Parallel sessions were organised for paper presentations. Research articles on theoretical and experimental studies on the electronic, electrochemical, ionic, magnetic, optical, and biosensing properties of materials in bulk, thin film, and nano forms were presented during the conference.

Former India goalkeeper Subrata Paul calls it quits

The custodian made his debut against Lebanon in the World Cup qualifiers in 2007 and had 65 appearances, while he turned out for many clubs including Mohun Bagan and East Bengal

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

One of the greatest Indian goalkeepers Subrata Paul, 36, on Friday decided to call it quits, bringing curtains on a glittering career spanning 16 years.

"Thank You Spiderman. Blue Tigers custodian hangs up his gloves today," the All India Football Federation posted on X.

Paul, who made his debut against Lebanon in the World Cup qualifiers in 2007, had 65 appearances for India.

He earned the sobriquet "Spiderman" for his heroics under the bar against heavyweight South Korea in the 2011 Asian Cup in Doha when India had qualified after a gap of 27 years. Overall, Paul made more than 35 saves in the whole tournament and has become one of the stars of the team since.

One of the best: Paul earned the sobriquet "Spiderman" for his heroics against South Korea in the 2011 Asian Cup.

South Korea had 20 shots on goal of which Paul saved 16 as India went down 4-1 in a valiant display.

Paul captained the Indian team under coach Stephen Constantine in the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers. Under him, India made the second round defeating Nepal on aggregate.

At the club level, he represented both the city's big two – Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

Hailing from Sodepur in West Bengal, Paul is a graduate from the Tata Football Academy, and started out from Mohun Bagan.

He was involved in a tragic incident when Dempo forward Cristiano Junior lost his life after a collision with the goalkeeper in the 2004 Federation Cup final.

Dempo won the match 2-0 but was left to mourn the death of Junior at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

Paul also played for Danish Super League side FC Vestsjælland and became the fourth Indian footballer to play professional football abroad.

Prarthana loses doubles semifinals in Dubai

Sports Bureau

Top seeds Timea Babos and Vera Zvonareva defeated Prarthana Thombare and Anastasia Tikhonova 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles semifinals of the $100,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Dubai on Friday.

The results: $100,000 ITF women, Dubai, UAE Doubles (semifinals):

Timea (Hun) & Vera bt Prarthana & Anastasia 6-4, 6-2.

Sahaja and Rushil star in Ichiban Samurai's victory

PRO TENNIS LEAGUE

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sahaja Yamalapalli and Rushil Khosla gave a resounding start for Ichiban Samurai which then cruised to a 89-71 victory over Indraprastha Warriors in a group-A league match of the Harven Pro Tennis League at the DLTA Complex on Friday.

Sahaja beat Soha Sadiq 17-3 and Rushil, the reigning National junior champion, strengthened the position for the team by beating Suvrat Mall 14-6.

Thereafter, Indraprastha fought back through the mixed doubles team of Soha and V.M. Ranjeet and Mukund Sasikumar.

Victorious: Rushil, the reigning National junior champion, beat Suvrat 14-6. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Ichiban sealed the contest with Nitin Kumar Sinha and Rushil beating Mukund and Suvrat 18-12.

It was the second victory for Ichiban as it had beaten Gurgaon Sapphires 83-77 overnight.

In the other group, Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas scored a 95-65 win over Lucknow Aviators.

The top two teams from the two groups will make the semifinals, after the last set of league matches on Saturday. Both the semifinals and final are scheduled for Sunday.

The results (league):

Group-A: Ichiban Samurai bt Indraprastha Warriors 89-71 (Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Soha Sadiq 17-3; Rushil Khosla bt Suvrat Mall 14-6; Gauri Mangaonkar bt Riya Sachdeva 12-8; Sahaja & Dilip Mohanty lost to Soha & VM Ranjeet 6-14; Nitin Kumar Sinha lost to Mukund Sasikumar 12-18; Sahaja & Gauri on par with Soha & Riya 10-10; Nitin & Rushil bt Mukund & Suvrat 18-12). **Group-B: Sankara Stag Babolat Yoddhas bt Lucknow Aviators 95-65** (Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Kashish Bhatia 11-9; Vansh Bisht on par with Shivank Bhatnagar 10-10; Sahira Singh bt Diva Bhatia 13-7; Sowjanya & Pulkit Mishra bt Kashish Bhatia & Aditya Khanna 13-7; Arjun Kadhe bt Anirudh Chandrasekar 21-9; Sowjanya & SAhira bt Kashish & Diva 11-9; Arjun & Vansh bt Anirudh & Shivank 16-14).